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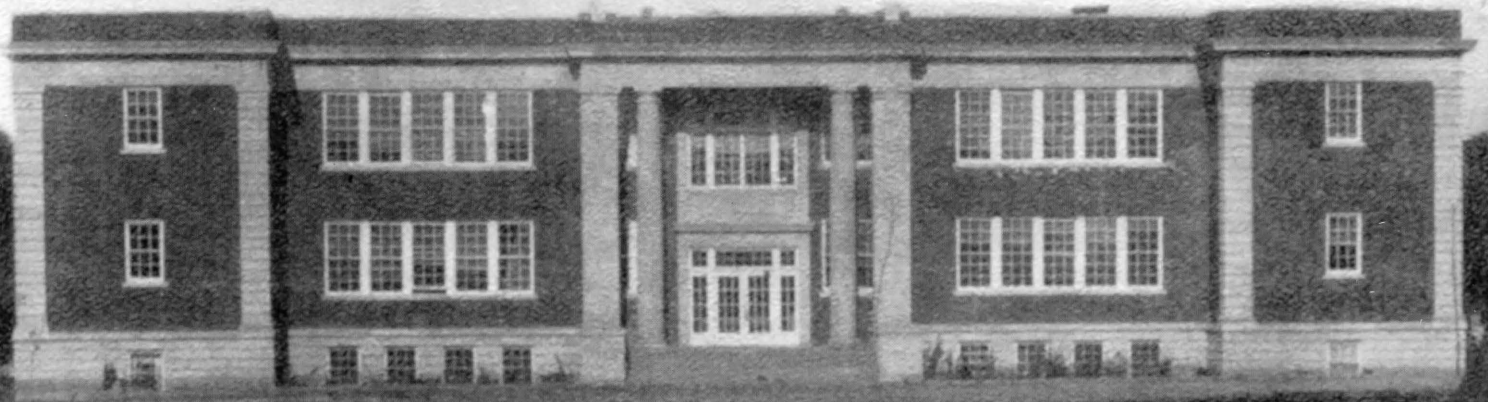
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Harding

WINTER
2014

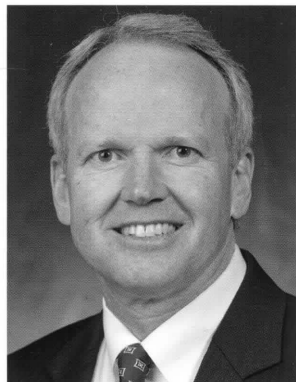
Back to
WHERE WE BEGAN



INSIDE THE SWAID CENTER
SHARPENING CHARACTER
LOVE STORIES

The mission continues

By BRUCE D. McLARTY, *president*



Mission defines Harding University.

Our beautiful campus in Searcy with more than 4,000 undergraduate students is far removed in time and appearance from its humble beginnings. Starting as a tiny school in Morrilton, Ark., in 1924, Harding struggled mightily for many years simply to survive. So much has changed. The one thing that has not changed is the mission.

There were only three structures in use in Morrilton when Harper College in Kansas and Arkansas Christian College under the leadership of President J.N. Armstrong

merged to form Harding in 1924. The main building was the administration-gymnasium-library-classroom-office building all rolled into one.

In 1924, Harding's first year in Morrilton, Dean of Women Florence Cathcart wrote the words and freshman L.O. Sander-son wrote the music for the alma mater. The first verse went "In the foothills of the Ozarks, Near to Petit Jean, Stands our glorious Alma Mater; Harding is her name." Following the move to Searcy in 1934, which is not in the foothills of the Ozarks and from which Petit Jean is not visible, the first two lines were changed to "Near the foothills of the Ozarks, Midst of hill and plain." The familiar song became a song of victory, sung when the mortgage was paid in 1939 and also when the school received North Central accreditation in 1954.

Morrilton remains an important place to Harding. Students often make trips to the "foothills of the Ozarks" for outings at Petit Jean Mountain, for which the college yearbook is named.

Jennifer Hannigan and Jeff Montgomery visited the original site of Harding this fall [Page 8] and look back at where we began and what became of the campus, which is now Southern Christian Home.

Harding is so much more than a location. It is "A Community of Mission." That is what we have been, where we are today, and what we resolve to become.

May God continue to richly bless Harding University. **H**

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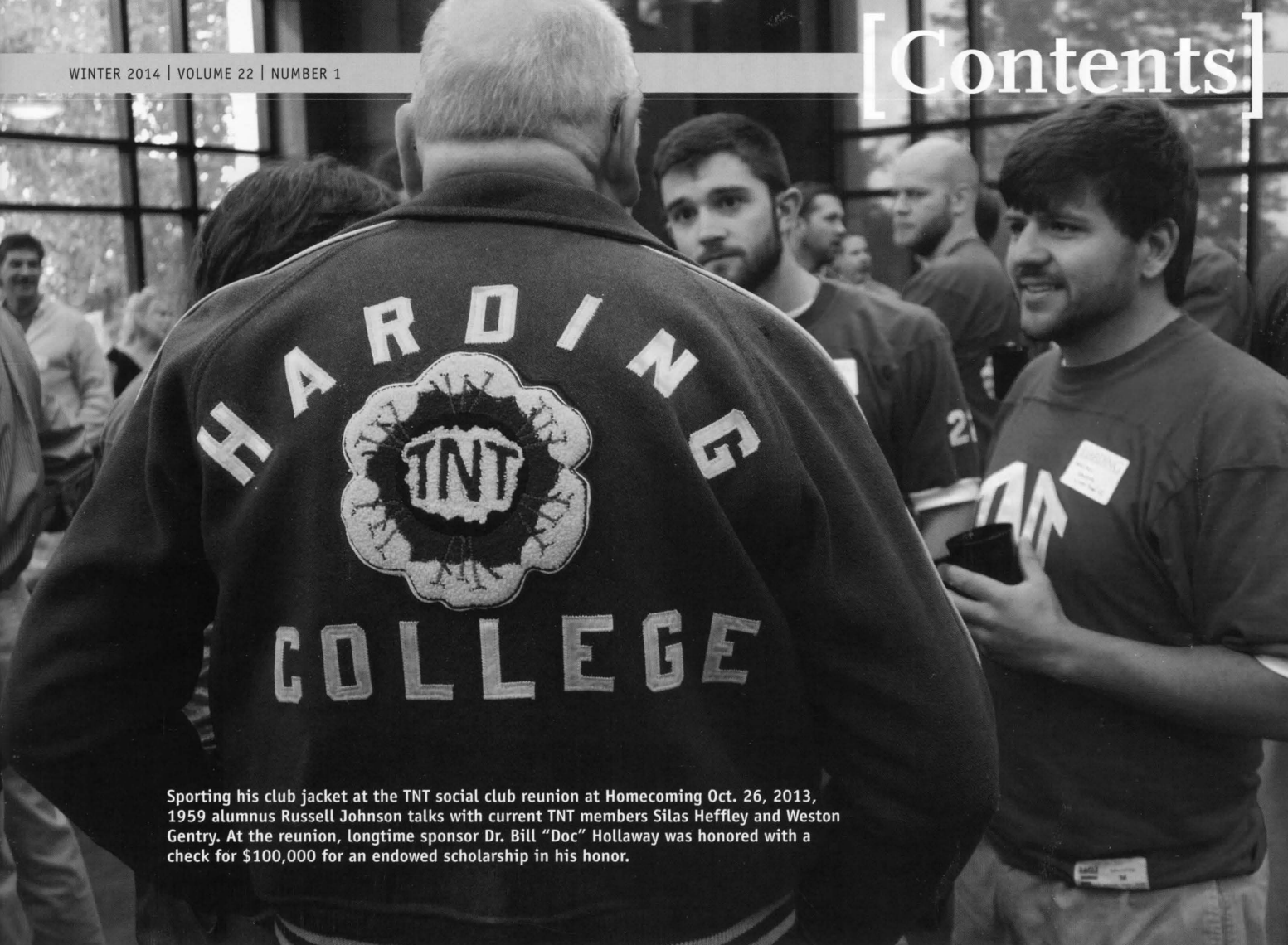
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ON THE COVER

The 1927 *Petit Jean* contains this photo of the Harding College Administration Building on the original campus grounds at Morrilton, Ark. Turn to Page 8 to see what became of Harding's birthplace.



Sporting his club jacket at the TNT social club reunion at Homecoming Oct. 26, 2013, 1959 alumnus Russell Johnson talks with current TNT members Silas Heffley and Weston Gentry. At the reunion, longtime sponsor Dr. Bill "Doc" Hollaway was honored with a check for \$100,000 for an endowed scholarship in his honor.

FEATURES

8 A shared mission

The story for the former campus in Morrilton, Ark., didn't end when the University moved away, and the site's current residents continue to shape young lives.

12 Inside the Swaid Center for Health Sciences

Carr College of Nursing and the department of communication sciences and disorders have a beautiful and highly functional new home in the Swaid Center, which opened this past fall.

16 Sharpening character

Alumni spent a decade dreaming and planning before Whetstone Boy's Ranch became a reality in 2011.

22 Harding love stories come to the surface

We asked alumni how they met their spouse while at the University. Check out six of their stories.

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It's resolution time.

[Around Campus]

Nursing offering graduate degree

The Carr College of Nursing announced in October a new family nurse practitioner master's degree program.

The family nurse practitioner program offers advanced training for registered nurses in assessment, diagnosis and treatment of patients in primary care settings such as clinics. Advanced practice registered nurses work collaboratively with physicians and other health care team members to provide comprehensive treatment plans and prescribe medications.

Dr. Susan Kehl, graduate director for the college and assistant professor, worked closely with the dean, nursing faculty, and other departments within the University to prepare budgets and curriculum

plans, seek national accreditation, hire faculty, recruit students, and prepare quality, evidence-based distance education strategies.

"The Carr College of Nursing has educated quality registered nurses at the baccalaureate level for many years, and we are confident we can further prepare graduate nursing students for advanced practice roles," Kehl said. "We believe Christian nurse leaders are needed more than ever in the rapidly changing health care environment."

The full-time sequence of the predominantly online distance education program can be completed within two years. Part-time options and post-graduate certifications are available for students.



Leah Burks, Chancellor David B. Burks and artist Michael Shane Neal pose by the presidential portrait of Dr. Burks.

Presidential portrait unveiled

Chancellor David B. Burks was honored Nov. 13, 2013, with the unveiling of his presidential portrait, which recognizes his 26 years as University president.

In January 2013, University administrators, after consulting with art department faculty members, chose Michael Shane Neal to paint a portrait of Burks. Since beginning a full-time career

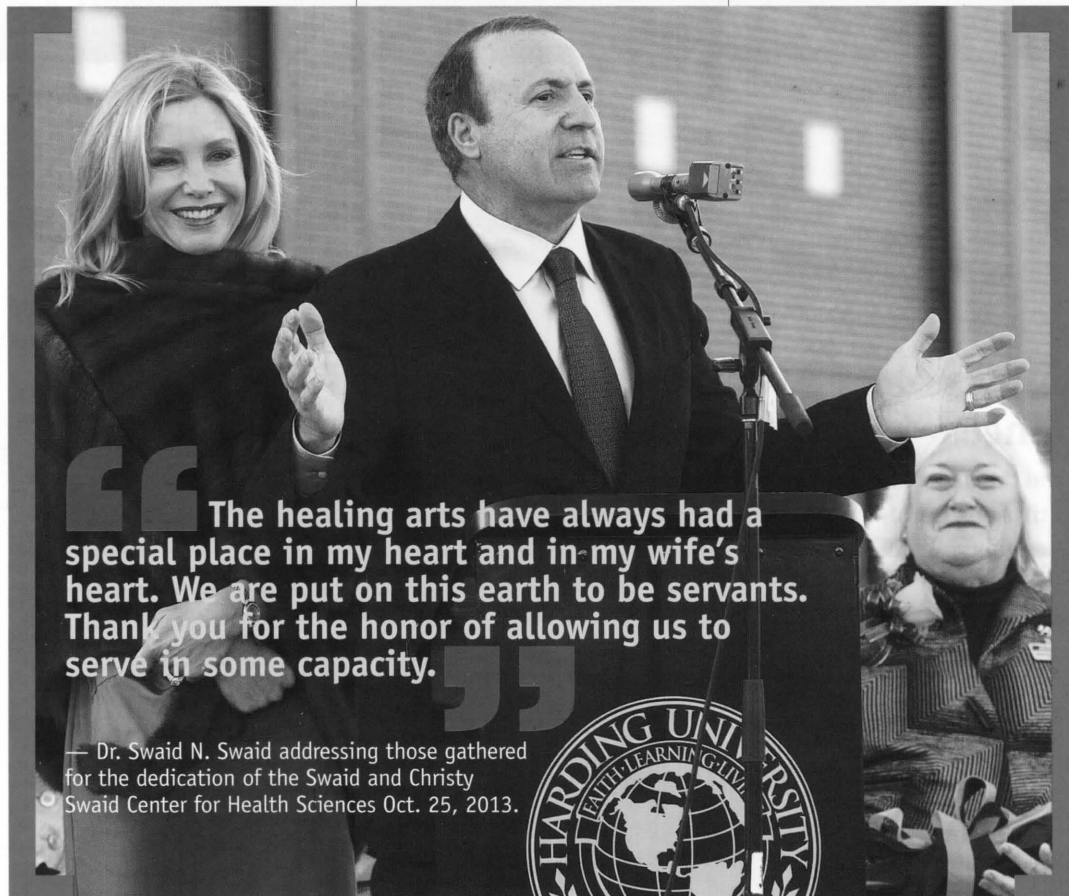
as an artist at age 21, Neal has completed nearly 500 portraits on display around the country. His past works include Ambassador Charles Rivkin for the American Embassy in Paris; Lucé Vela Gutierrez, former first lady of Puerto Rico; and Senator Arthur Vandenberg for the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Burks' portrait hangs in the lobby of the Burks American Heritage Building.

The creation of a gallery honoring former Harding presidents began in 1974 with a portrait honoring J.N. Armstrong, the University's first president. The portraits of George S. Benson and Clifton L. Ganus Jr. were created in 1978 and 1982 respectively. The late C.L. Watts Jr., a local artist, was chosen to paint these Harding legacies. The portraits hang outside Cone Chapel along with one honoring James A. Harding, after whom the University is named.

Spring Sing celebrates 'new'

Harding has undergone several changes in the past year — a new president, new construction and new academic programs — so it seems fitting for Spring Sing to celebrate this with the theme "New," April 17-19. For show times and ticket information, visit www.harding.edu/springsing.



"The healing arts have always had a special place in my heart and in my wife's heart. We are put on this earth to be servants. Thank you for the honor of allowing us to serve in some capacity."

— Dr. Swaid N. Swaid addressing those gathered for the dedication of the Swaid and Christy Swaid Center for Health Sciences Oct. 25, 2013.



Carr chosen for board leadership roles

Dr. Jim Carr, senior vice president, was recently elected to three-year terms on the board of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce and board of directors for Herald of Truth.

Carr joins 30 other board members representing 14 cities for Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce.

Herald of Truth is an organization that strives to evangelize using Internet-based outreach and communication technologies in text, video and audio on multiple electronic platforms. Carr joins 12 other individuals on this board.

Carr is serving a three-year term with both organizations which began Jan. 1 and ends Dec. 31, 2016.

University named among the best

Institutional Research & Evaluation Inc. of Rome, Ga., has once again ranked Harding in two of its 2013-14 publications, *America's Best Christian Colleges* and *America's 100 Best College Buys*.

The company annually identifies the top Christian colleges and universities that provide students with the highest quality of education in a Christian environment. This year, 95 colleges nationwide made the list.

Christian-affiliated schools were evaluated on grade-point averages and ACT and SAT scores of incoming freshmen. Institutions included in *America's Best Christian Colleges* represent 29 states.

The company also annually names the top 100 American colleges and universities that provide students with the highest quality of education at the lowest cost.

Last spring, the company surveyed more than 1,400 colleges and universities that offer four-year undergraduate degree programs. Schools were evaluated on cost of attendance and incoming freshmen grade-point averages and ACT and SAT scores.

The study showed that the national average cost of attendance based upon regular cost at private institutions and the out-of-state cost of attendance at public institutions was \$37,382 for 2013-14. Harding's cost of attendance is slightly more than \$22,000 a year.

The 100 schools that made the annual list represent 41 different states.

My view | JIM MILLER

In an age where people tell an electronic device life-changing news before telling a living and breathing human, it's no secret that social media have dramatically changed the way the world functions. As it continues to grow, its future is unclear. Harding magazine spoke with Dr. Jim Miller, assistant professor of communication, about his take on this developing and growing culture of sharing.



According to a recent Pew Research Center study, 72 percent of online adults use a social media network. Facebook reports that 1.11 billion people use the site every month. Nearly 200 million tweets are posted every day. About 100 hours of video are uploaded to YouTube every minute. Teens send an average of 3,400 text messages per month.

Online social media are pervasive, and they have changed how we live and relate interpersonally. Because these social networks are only a few years old, researchers know little about the long-term effects this new era of communication may have on individuals and societies.

We have identified some trends, however. Researchers and pundits point to cyber bullying, unhealthy narcissism and dysfunctional real-world relationships as some of the negative effects of online social networks.

However, as an educator I believe the benefits of social media in the digital age far outweigh the negatives. Here are two positive effects of online social networks:

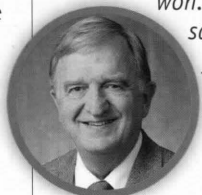
Social networks foster innovation. Great ideas are formed through collaboration. Social media allow people to share their creative hunches with other creative people across the world. Innovation is a natural byproduct of those connections.

Social networks educate. Despite the decline of traditional media, news consumption among most demographics has increased in recent years because of online social media. Users are simply more informed about current events because social media expose them to news, even if they aren't looking for it.

Facebook, Twitter and YouTube may not be around in 10 years. Online social media, however, are not going anywhere. They will continue to evolve as technology advances. As in most areas of our lives, discernment is necessary when we use social media networks. Media are powerful tools that can be used to change the world for good. Let's use them for those purposes. ■

DR. CLIFF GANUS III Chair of the music department

➤ 1966 Harding graduate
➤ D.M.A. from University of Colorado Boulder
➤ Favorite choral song: "Ich bin das Brot des Lebens," by Wolfram Buchenberg
"I remember especially one knee-buckling performance in Sopot, Poland, when we were singing that song in the Mundus Cantat International Choral Festival, which we won. The group sang so beautifully I could hardly stand or breathe."



Stepping UP

DR. DENNIS MATLOCK Chair of the chemistry department

➤ 1996 Harding graduate
➤ Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology from Saint Louis University
➤ Favorite element: oxygen
"It was one of the first elements I remember having memorized its atomic weight to four decimal places."



JEAN WALDROP Director of Brackett Library

➤ 1983 Harding graduate
➤ M.S. in learning technology and information systems from Texas A&M University-Commerce
➤ Favorite book series: Elm Creek Quilt series by Jennifer Chiaverini
"Quilting is one of my favorite hobbies, and I've enjoyed reading a series about something I love."



Everyday student(s)

More than 50 percent of Harding graduates travel abroad to immerse themselves in the art of Italy, the history of Greece, or any of the cultural offerings in the other programs. For four girls, however, they need only walk a few steps to their dorm room for that experience.

The immersion dorm room is maintained by the foreign language department and is meant to help students in their Spanish speaking. There is just one rule: Only Spanish can be spoken in the dorm room.

"Our goal is to give students, especially those who don't have the chance to study abroad, an immersion experience," says Assistant Professor of Spanish Michelle Coizman. "You learn better when you are forced to use what you are studying, and by signing the language contract, our students are forced to use the language every day in real situations."

Juniors Sarah Diaz, Laura Hatley, Anna Ruhl and DeAnna Wallace currently reside in the dorm room for the school year, hoping to improve their conversational Spanish and learn outside of the classroom environment.

"Although the idea is not unique to Harding, our immersion dorm is special,"

Coizman says. "We have such dedicated students who really want to improve, and their willingness to participate shows that."

For the women, the experience helps their language skills but also brings some difficulties.

"It's a comical situation," says Ruhl, a finance major. "There are four girls living in a room trying to speak one language when they could communicate perfectly well in another. Personally, my vocabulary is very small, so it is frustrating for me when I cannot strongly communicate what I want to say."

The language and grammar limits can make speaking or formulating a sentence prove challenging.

"It requires thought and patience because you want to make sure what you're saying is grammatically correct so you don't defeat the purpose," says Wallace, a Spanish major getting her teaching licensure.

The fact that Diaz is a native Spanish speaker has enriched the immersion experience as she brings parts of her culture into the living situation, such as cooking Mexican meals for her suitemates and explaining the importance of fútbol, or soccer.

"Something they probably noticed was how I played a lot of Hispanic music almost every day," says Diaz, an international studies major. "Almost in every Latino house, listening to music like salsa, bachata, cumbia and ranchera is a must! Therefore, I have to play them some of different kinds so they can learn the many styles and music around the different Hispanic countries."

And the sharing of cultures isn't one-sided for Diaz; she enjoys getting to know more about the various American cultures she's exposed to at Harding.

"What I've enjoyed so far of the immersion dorm has been the experience

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Brckett Library

Ann Dixon, director, was named recipient of the Suzanne Spurrier Academic Librarian Award at the Arkansas Library Association conference Oct. 7, 2013. The award recognizes an outstanding academic librarian within the state of Arkansas.

College of Allied Health Physical Therapy Program

Ruth Ann Mathis, assistant professor, defended her dissertation November 2013 at University of Central Arkansas and completed her doctorate in physical therapy to earn a Ph.D. The title of her dissertation is "The Effect of Exercise Training Intensity on Physical Fitness and Physical Function in People With Type 2 Diabetes: A Randomized Clinical Trial."

Dr. Beckie Weaver, dean, was appointed chair of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association's

international issues board for January 2014-December 2016.

College of Arts and Humanities Department of Music

Dr. Scott Carrell, associate professor, presented solo piano recitals fall 2013 at University of Arkansas-Fort Smith and at Fairfield Bay Conference Center; a special all-French program was given at Lyon College. In November 2013, he made a four-performance Mississippi tour at Rust College, Blue Mountain College, the University of Mississippi, and the DeSoto Arts Council.

Dr. Kelly Neill, assistant professor, presented at the Arkansas conference of National Association for Music Education November 2013. His presentation was titled "Systems Theory Applied to Music Classrooms."

The department hosted the Southern Region Conference

of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Nov. 7-9, 2013. **Micaleigh Coleman**, a music major from Alma, Ark., received first place in the Freshmen Women Classical Division; **Emily Eads**, a vocal music education major from Searcy, received third place in the Junior Women Classical Division; **Austin Collum**, a music major from Cherokee, Ala., received fourth place in the Junior Men Classical Division; **Nate White**, a music major from Omaha, Neb., received fourth place in the Senior Men Classical Division and first place in the Advanced Musical Theater Division; and **Benji Holder**, a music major from Fort Wayne, Ind., received third place in the Senior Men Classical Division.

College of Bible and Ministry

Dr. Dale Manor, professor of Bible and archaeology, wrote the foreword for *Early Explorers of Bible Lands* by Dr.

Jack P. Lewis. He also wrote an excerpt in the *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Archaeology* on Beth-Shemesh, Israel.

Mitchell Center for Leadership and Ministry

Andrew Baker, director, defended his dissertation November 2013 at the School of Church Ministries at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and earned a Ph.D. in leadership and ministry. The title of his dissertation is "A Quantitative Study of Adolescent Aggressive Behavior in a Church-based Context: Bully in the Pew."

College of Business Administration

Bob Churchman, assistant professor, defended his dissertation October 2013 at Anderson (Ind.) University and earned his D.B.A. in accounting. The title of his dissertation is "Attracting the Best and Brightest:

An Examination of the Factors That Influence Students' Intent to Enter the Accounting Profession."

Dr. Phil Brown, professor, presented at the American Accounting Association annual meeting and conference on Teaching and Learning in Accounting in Anaheim, Calif., August 2013. His presentation was titled "Incorporating Professional Development Activities in the Accounting Classroom: Answering the Call From the Profession."

Four faculty members attended the Regional Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs meeting in San Antonio Nov. 7-8, 2013. **Dr. Reet Cronk**, professor, gave two presentations titled "Learning in the 21st Century: Rules and Tools of Engagement" and "Teaching the Gen Ys: Meeting Them Where They Are At." **Brown and Churchman** presented



itself of living with two different American cultures," she says. "I get to experience Southern and Northern culture, plus a little Latino culture, all at once in one place. Just like [my suitemates] try to immerse in my culture, I try to immerse in theirs, and everyone gains new knowledge and friendships by doing so."

Working together to grow in the language has also helped the women build relationships with one another since they didn't know each other before moving in.

"At the start, we didn't know anything about each other at all," Wallace says. "This experience has been great because not only are we connected by our desire to learn to speak Spanish the best way we can, but we've found out that we're connected in other ways as well. This is an amazing group of girls, and I am so blessed to have had the opportunity to live with them this year." **H**

Juniors DeAnna Wallace (front), Anna Ruhl, Sarah Diaz and Laura Hatley have to follow one rule in their residence hall that other students do not — they must speak only Spanish while conversing in their suite in Pryor Hall.



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a topic based on student internship experience with Duck Commander titled "Engaging Alumni in Student Learning: Duck Dynasty + Harding = Student Consulting." **George Oliver**, professor, also attended and serves on the strategic planning committee.

Dr. **Bryan Burks**, dean and faculty adviser to Delta Mu Delta Honor Society, took two students, **Blake Daniel** (president) and **Hector Mejia** (vice president) to the 100th anniversary national conference in San Antonio Nov. 8-10, 2013. Burks also attended the Arkansas Dean's Conference in Arkadelphia in September.

College of Education

Dr. **Bruce Bryant**, associate professor and new director of the Master of Arts: Excellence in Teaching degree program, had a presentation accepted fall 2013 for the Critical Questions in Education conference in San Antonio.

College of Sciences Department of Chemistry

Dr. **Ed Wilson**, professor, received NASA funding for scholarships, materials and travel for new projects, including design of a light communication system for nanosatellites carrying out solar system missions. Students are designing a robot arm equipped with sensors for growth measurements of crops and trees. More efficient rocket motors are being made and tested using 3-D printing. Several students are building a solar spectrometer for the 2014 National Student Solar Spectrograph Competition.

Department of Computer Science

Keith Enlow, computer engineering major; **Daniel Sebastian**, computer science major; and **Monica Yarbrough**, computer science major, attended the Joint Conference on Digital

Libraries in Indianapolis July 22-26, 2013. Enlow and Yarbrough presented the work they performed this summer at a Web archiving workshop at the conference. Sebastian presented a poster at JCDL titled "Semi-Automated Rediscovery of Lost YouTube Music Videos."

Dr. **Frank McCown**, associate professor, presented a paper and a poster at JCDL 2013. The paper, titled "First Steps in Archiving the Mobile Web: Automated Discovery of Mobile Websites," was co-authored by **Richard Schneider**, a 2012 computer science graduate. The poster, titled "A Memento Web Browser for iOS," was co-authored by **Heather Tweedy**, a 2013 computer science graduate.

The programming team competed in a regional competition November 2013 in Fort Smith, Ark. They competed against 140 teams

in the five-state region of Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri and Illinois. The team finished first among the 14 Arkansas teams and 16th overall.

Department of Engineering and Physics

Dr. **Jonathan White**, assistant professor, received a grant from Google to teach cloud computing topics in the Introduction to Engineering class. The project was recently featured on Google's research blog. White also received his professional engineer license in Arkansas and is one of the first in the state to receive this licensure in computer engineering.

Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Grace Crall, a child life major from Little Rock, Ark., was honored as the children's services volunteer of the year by Easter Seals at their Nov. 13, 2013, meeting.

Department of Kinesiology

Drs. **J.D. Yingling** and **Jessica Moore**, associate professors, presented "Walking in the Steps of Olympic Athletes" at the Arkansas Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance convention in Little Rock Nov. 7, 2013. The session detailed the planning and organization of the University's Harding Olympic Tour international program.

McNair Scholars

Dr. **Linda Thompson**, director, was selected September 2013 to be on the editorial board of the "Journal of Developmental Education," printed and published from the National Center for Developmental Education in Booth, N.C.

Like father, like daughter

By SCOTT GOODE, assistant athletic director for sports information

At a track meet on campus in 2013, she rocked back, then took a 10-step, curved approach, leaped off her left foot and cleared five feet, eight inches, setting a new Harding women's outdoor high jump record. ▸ At the 1975 NAIA national

track meet on Henderson State's campus in Arkadelphia, Ark., he rocked back, then took a 10-step, straight-at-the-bar approach, leaped off his right foot and cleared six feet, 11 inches, setting a new Harding men's outdoor high jump record, which still stands today.

Harding's women's record holder is senior Kristen Celsor. Harding's men's record holder is her dad, Steve, who won that meet in 1975 to become the NAIA national champion.

"It's just really cool that my record has lasted this long," Steve says. "It's great to be able to go up to that [records] board and see the Celsor name on there twice."

Steve's track and field career began in junior high in his home of Alton, Ill., when he discovered he was not good enough to play basketball so decided to join his friends on the track team.

"Back in those days, if you weren't any good, they put you in the 880 [yard dash]," Steve says. "I hated that. My only goal was to not come in last. I found out that you did not have to run if you did field events, so I did the high jump. It just all fell into place."

Steve discovered early on that the high jump was something at which he excelled.

"In junior high, our school went to a meet, and I was the only one that came back with a ribbon, so I figured it must be something I'm pretty good at," Steve says. "It is amazing how a little thing like that can change your direction."

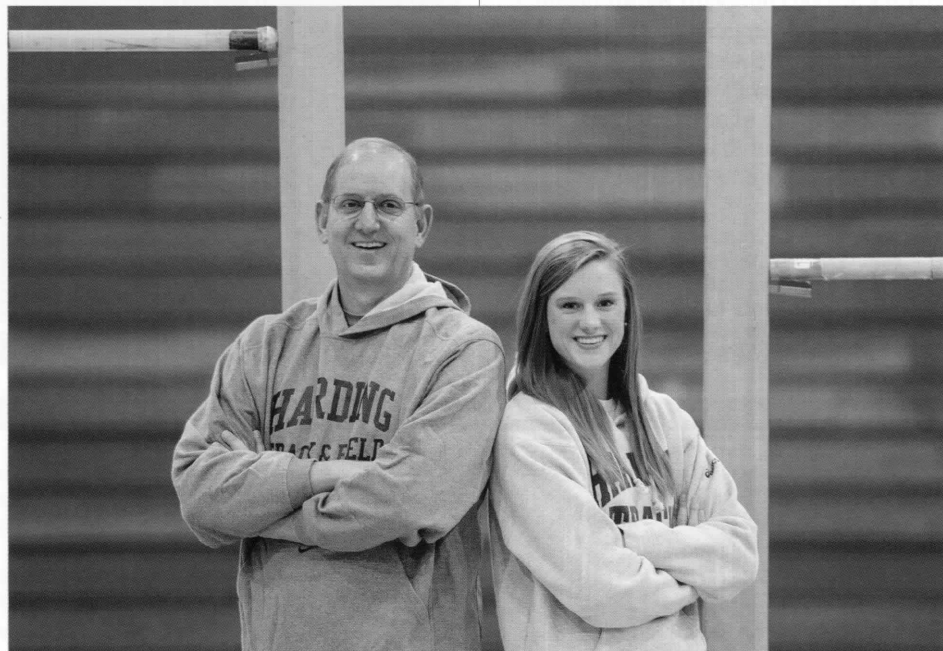
Steve first visited Harding when he was 7 years old and says he knew he always wanted to go to the University. After clearing six feet, eight inches and placing second in the Illinois State Track Meet, Harding track coach Ted Lloyd visited him and offered him a work-study scholarship.

His national championship in 1975 came despite a season filled with injuries.

"It was my worst year," Steve says. "I had tendonitis in my knee and sometimes only had the ability to jump once. I would wait until everyone else had jumped, then I would jump once."

"Just before the conference meet, Dr. [Jim] Citty injected my knee, and for two weeks I did not have any pain."

Steve cleared 6-11 and took a shot at the NAIA record of 7-1¼ but missed on each of his three jumps.



Kristen knew of her dad's achievements early in her life.

"He really does not like to talk about his own success," Kristen says, "so I really did not hear anything about it until we went to my grandparents' house, and they showed me all his awards and trophies."

For Kristen, her track and field career did not begin of her own accord.

"I was told that I had to try track and field for one year," Kristen says, "and I was not happy. I did my year, and I really liked high jump. I did the other [events], too, but I really like high jump."

When she says she did the other events, too, she is being extremely modest. With the help of Harding Hall of Famer Tony McCoy, a coach at Searcy High School, Kristen won the Arkansas High School state championship in the

heptathlon, a two-day, seven-event battle between the best athletes in the state.

But for much of her junior high and high school career, Steve served as Kristen's high jump coach. She says that creates an interesting dynamic.

"I think having your dad as your coach is a great thing," Kristen says with a laugh, "but it is also frustrating because you know he is always right. If I mess something up, I know it, but walking back, I also know that he knows it."

Kristen does not compete for track and field during the indoor season. She came to Harding on a basketball scholarship and will graduate as one of the Lady Bisons' top 10 scorers in program history.

But when basketball season concludes each March, Kristen heads for the track. She tied Harding's outdoor record by clearing 5-7 at a meet at Ole Miss in 2012 and later went 5-7¼ at Arkansas State to claim the record as her own.

Last season, Kristen qualified for the NCAA Division II national meet in Pueblo, Colo., and, despite having a stress fracture in her foot, cleared 5-7 and finished 14th overall. The winner cleared 6-1.

"I really think Kristen can clear 6-0 this season," Steve says.

If she does, she might win the national championship — just like her dad. ■



MEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY

RECAP: The Bisons won their 40th conference title at the Great American Conference championship Oct. 26, 2013, in Russellville, Ark. Senior Andrew Evans earned GAC Runner of the Year honors by winning the 8K conference meet in 26 minutes, 31.1 seconds. Five Harding runners finished in the top 10 and earned First Team All-GAC honors. In addition to Evans, the honorees were junior Lajos Farkas, seniors Taylor Lively and Matthew Cumpian, and freshman Dawid Konieczek. Junior Logan Green placed 14th and earned Second Team All-GAC. With the victory in the conference meet, the team moved on to the NCAA Division II Central Region Meet in Sioux Falls, S.D. The Bisons placed eighth among 23 teams and highest among any of the GAC teams in competition. Harding missed qualifying for nationals, but Evans earned All-Central Region by placing 17th in the 10K race in 32:21.61.

WOMEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY

RECAP: Junior Ewa Zaborowska won her second-straight Great American Conference cross-country individual championship and led the Lady Bisons to their 20th conference title in 2013. Zaborowska finished the 5K conference championship race in Russellville, Ark., in 17 minutes, 45.8 seconds and earned GAC Runner of the Year honors. She was one of five Lady Bisons to finish in the top 10 and receive First Team All-GAC. Junior Dallis Bailey finished second in 18:23.1, freshman Amber Webb was fourth, junior Rachel Roberts was eighth, and sophomore Kelsey Taylor was ninth. Webb was the highest-placing freshman and earned GAC Freshman of the Year. The Lady Bisons moved on to the NCAA Division II Central Region Meet in Sioux Falls, S.D., and placed 10th of 30 teams but failed to qualify for the national meet. Zaborowska earned All-Central Region honors by placing eighth in the 6K race in 21:35.39.

FOOTBALL

RECORD: 9-2, conference 8-2

RECAP: The 2013 football team concluded its season by defeating Texas A&M-Commerce 44-3 in the inaugural Live United Texarkana Bowl Dec. 13, 2013, and posting back-to-back nine-win seasons for the first time. The Bisons took advantage of their postseason game with their best performance of 2013. The offense gained 504 yards with junior quarterback Keenan Kellett earning the game's Most Valuable Player Award. Kellett completed 6-of-9 passes for 207 yards and two touchdowns and rushed for 55 yards on 10 carries. Five of his passes went to junior wide receiver Donatella Luckett, who had a career-high 149 receiving yards and a 57-yard touchdown. The defense limited Texas A&M-Commerce to only 100 total yards, its best effort of the year. Harding's offense in 2013 was its most potent ever. The Bisons set numerous school records, including total points (478), points per game (43.5), total yards (5,391) and touchdowns (66). Junior fullback Romo Westbrook led the team's rushing attack that ranked in the top five in Division II. Westbrook earned All-America honors for the second-straight year, rushing for 1,123 yards and 12 touchdowns. Junior Mike Thompson led the offensive line, earning Second Team All-Super Region 3 honors. The Bisons' defense was one of the best in the nation in stopping the run, limiting its opponents to only 69.3 rushing yards per game and 2.0 yards per rush, both school records. Two defensive players earned All-Super Region 3 honors. Senior Daniel Riley had a team-high 13.5 tackles for loss and 10.0 sacks and was a Third Team selection. Senior Ashtun Williams, one of the most feared tacklers in the GAC, made 57 stops and added two interceptions and seven pass breakups to earn Second Team honors.

MEN'S SOCCER

RECORD: 6-8-2, conference 3-6

RECAP: A pair of academic honors and tying a team record with three victories in Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association play highlighted the 2013 men's soccer season. Both on the field and in the classroom, juniors Jacob Stevens and Gehrig Haberstock excelled, earning Capital One Academic All-America. Stevens, a midfielder, started all 16 games and scored four goals and added an assist. Haberstock, a defender, also started all 16 games and had two goals and two assists. Stevens was one of five Bisons to earn honorable mention All-MIAA honors. Freshman midfielder Jackson Buchanan, junior defender Kevin Pineda, freshman defender Phillip White and senior forward Ryan Wilhelm joined him. Buchanan, Stevens, White and junior forward Ian Park were Daktronics Second Team All-Region honorees. Park led the team with six goals, and sophomore Christopher Walker had a team-high five assists. Senior Will Lynn and freshman Seth Peterson both started eight games at goalkeeper.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

RECORD: 8-9-1, conference 6-4

RECAP: Through their first 11 games, the women's soccer team had only two wins and was 1-4 in Great American Conference play. Then on Oct. 18, 2013, a 1-0 conference victory at Ouachita Baptist University began a turnaround that culminated with the Lady Bisons playing for the GAC Tournament championship. The victory against Ouachita Baptist was the first of six-straight wins, the first five in regular season conference play. The Lady Bisons moved from fifth place in the six-team GAC up to third, defeated Ouachita Baptist 1-0 in the semifinals of the GAC Tournament, and advanced to the championship where they suffered a 2-0 loss to Southwestern Oklahoma University. Six Lady Bisons earned All-GAC honors, including senior defender Hannah Hatcher and senior forward Jenna Taylor, who both were named First Team. Sophomore midfielder Audrey Adkison, senior midfielder Erin Haltiwanger, sophomore goalkeeper Kaitlyn Miller and freshman defender Melita Sutherland were Second Team. Head coach Greg Harris was the conference's Coach of the Year. Hatcher also earned Third Team NSCAA All-Central Region honors. Taylor led the team with four goals. Adkison and freshman McKenna Smith tied for the team lead with three assists. Miller started all 18 games at goalkeeper.

VOLLEYBALL

RECORD: 27-8, 14-0 conference

RECAP: Volleyball continued two winning streaks during the 2013 season. The Lady Bisons were 14-0 in Great American Conference play and won the regular season championship, extending their regular season conference-winning streak to 30 matches. The team also was a perfect 8-0 at home and has won 24 straight matches at Rhodes Field House. The Lady Bisons finished the season as GAC Tournament runners-up. The team was led by senior outside hitter Mollie Arnold, who earned Daktronics All-Region, First Team All-GAC, and GAC Player of the Year honors. It was Arnold's second-straight GAC Player of the Year award. She concluded her Harding career ranked second in career kills with 1,884, fourth in service aces with 149, and sixth in digs with 1,487. The entire starting lineup received All-GAC honors. Arnold and senior middle blocker Alyssa Short were named first team. Setter Taryn Eubank, middle blocker Liv Savage and outside hitter Marindia Turner, all juniors, were named second team. Senior defensive specialist Lisa Copeland was named honorable mention. Head coach Meredith Fear earned GAC Coach of the Year for the second-straight season.



The front of the administration building on the Morrilton campus still bears the name of its first occupants, Arkansas Christian College, which began in 1920 but became Harding College in 1924, merging with Harper College.

[COVER STORY]

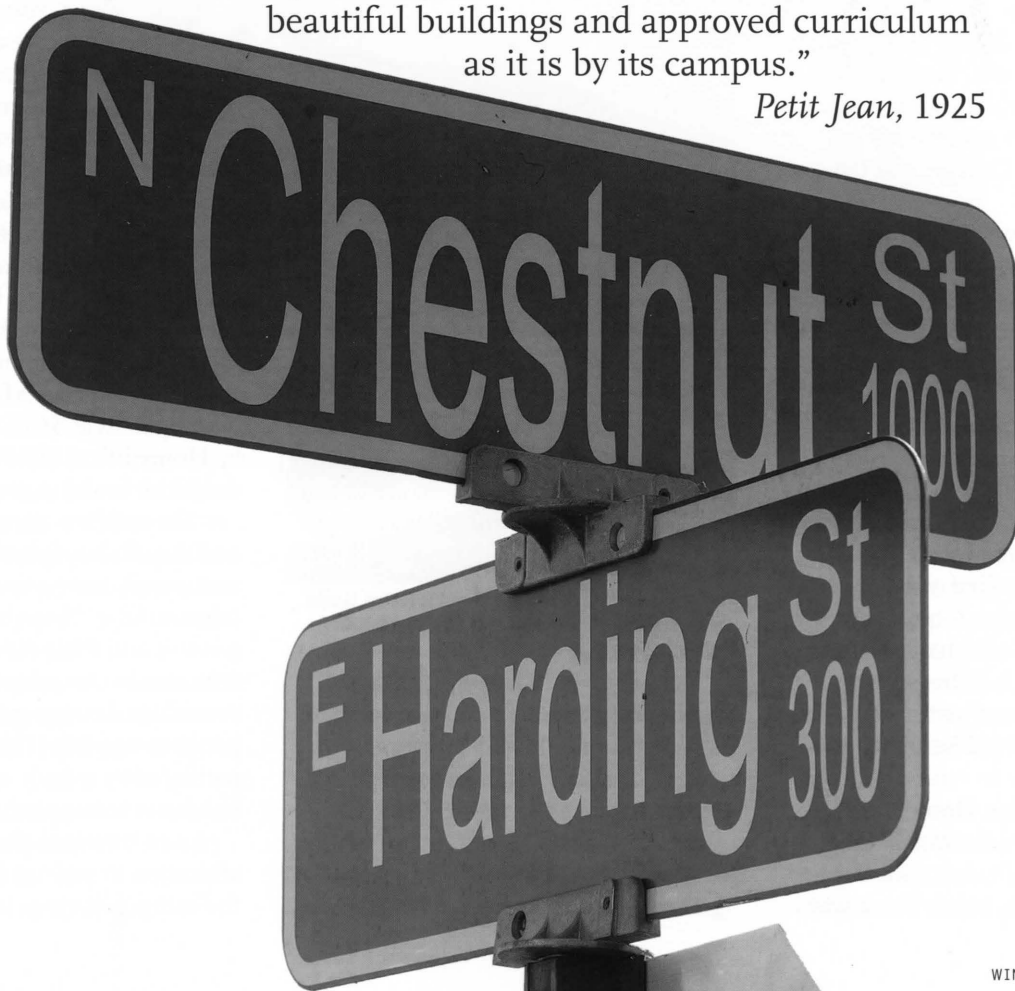
*Harding's first home in
Morilton and the children's
home occupying it since have*

A SHARED MISSION

By JENNIFER HANNIGAN, photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY

"Possibly in after years, even more dear than the memory of some white-haired professor, more precious than the friendships of old classmates, more beloved than the love of every classroom and every hall, will be the memory of the college campus; for truly a college is not so often remembered by its beautiful buildings and approved curriculum as it is by its campus."

Petit Jean, 1925



A SHARED MISSION

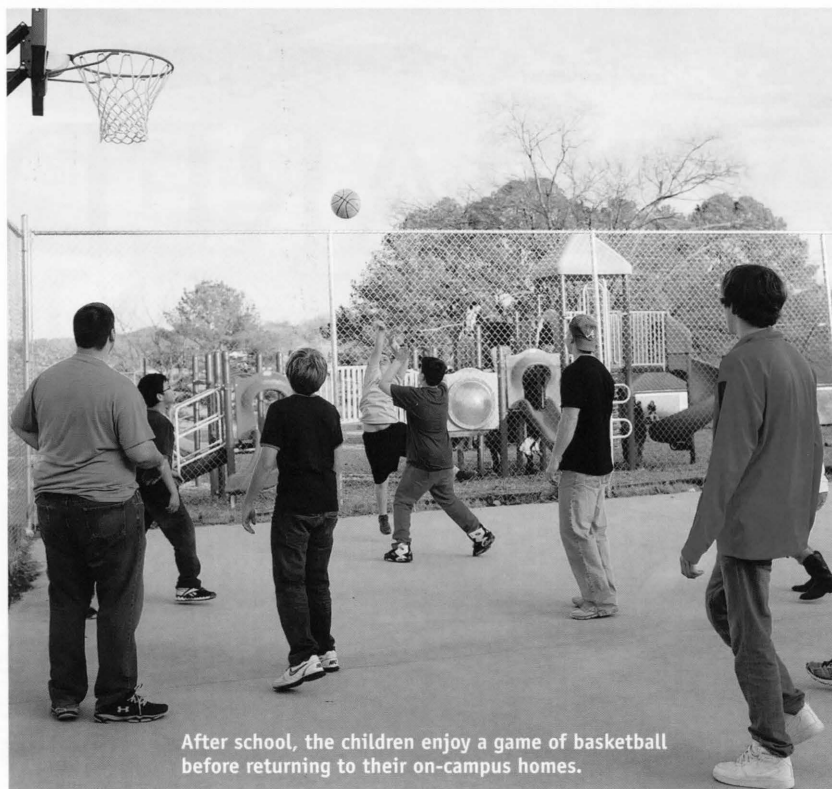
Turning onto the road that leads to the campus, this place feels familiar. Whether in the large administration building with its concrete columns or the stone archway that curves over the sidewalk, it's easy to see the traces of the school that once occupied this space. Even the street name serves as a reminder — Harding Street.

Morrilton, Ark., was then Harding College's first home, where two schools — Arkansas Christian College and Harper College of Kansas — merged into one and where faculty, staff and students prayerfully executed their dream for Christian education. But, in 1934, Harding College moved 70 miles east to Searcy, occupying the larger campus left by Galloway Women's College, and the rest is Harding history.

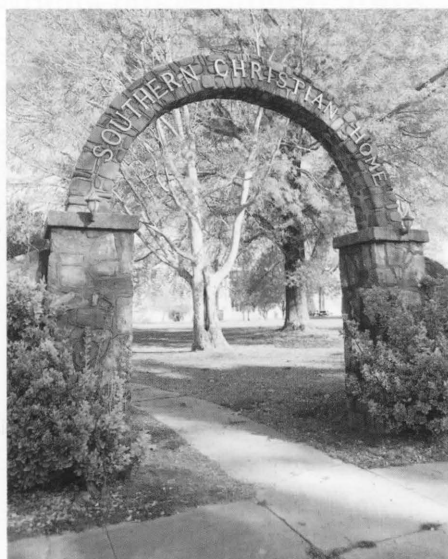
But for the campus in Morrilton, the story was just beginning, as it soon found itself home to Southern Christian Home and once again shaping and nurturing young people.

The inside of the administration building on the Morrilton campus probably looks a little different than it did when Harding students walked through it. Archery targets stand at the end of the halls, waiting to be rolled out and used when weather permits. A quilt hangs on the wall with painted handprints of various sizes on each of the squares. These hands represent just some of the children who have lived here throughout the years.

Southern Christian Home is a residential child care facility that began in 1926 in Fort Smith, Ark., moving to Morrilton in 1936. Much like it was



After school, the children enjoy a game of basketball before returning to their on-campus homes.



The stone arch on the Southern Christian Home campus is reminiscent of the familiar Harding arches in Searcy.

for Harding, the Great Depression was incredibly difficult, and the home very nearly closed during those years, but determination and sacrificial service by many involved helped the ministry to survive.

The home can keep at its capacity 60

children, ranging in age from elementary to high school. They come to the residence through various means, whether through the state Department of Human Services, private placement by a family, or the Department of Justice on occasion. In many ways, it works much like foster care, except that the homes are physically located on the campus. There are six full-time houses and two relief houses, and each houseparent can keep seven to nine children depending on their ages. Because SCH is funded completely through

voluntary donations and receives no state or federal government support, they can specify that the houseparents are married Christians.

"Our staff members are well educated and highly motivated to serve in this ministry," says Les Johnson, director of development. "Most are working for a fraction of what they might expect to earn in other industries. For them, Southern Christian Home is an avocation and a ministry — not a job. This is, in fact, requisite for employment at SCH."

Home life at SCH is not unlike what would be found in any normal home.

"The children attend public school, and they do homework in the afternoons and usually have a few chores at home," Johnson says. "Everyone attends church services and Bible class. The houseparents are able to choose from among several local congregations where they prefer to worship. There are birthday parties every month, and every special holiday is accompanied by activities."

A van travels to the schools in the afternoon to pick up the children, and the campus springs to life once they all

tumble out of the van and make their way to their homes or play with one another around the grounds.

A boy and girl — two of the younger children — play chase, and when the boy catches his partner, he claims a trophy — pulling one of her boots off her foot. Hands clenched at her side, she exclaims, “I’m telling!” and begins her stiff-legged march to the adults along the perimeter. To defuse the situation, the boy rushes to return the boot to her foot, but she will not abandon her mission. It can be easy to forget the backgrounds

these children come from as they sprint around after school. Watching the small girl at play, the difficulties she’s faced with her parents are not obvious.

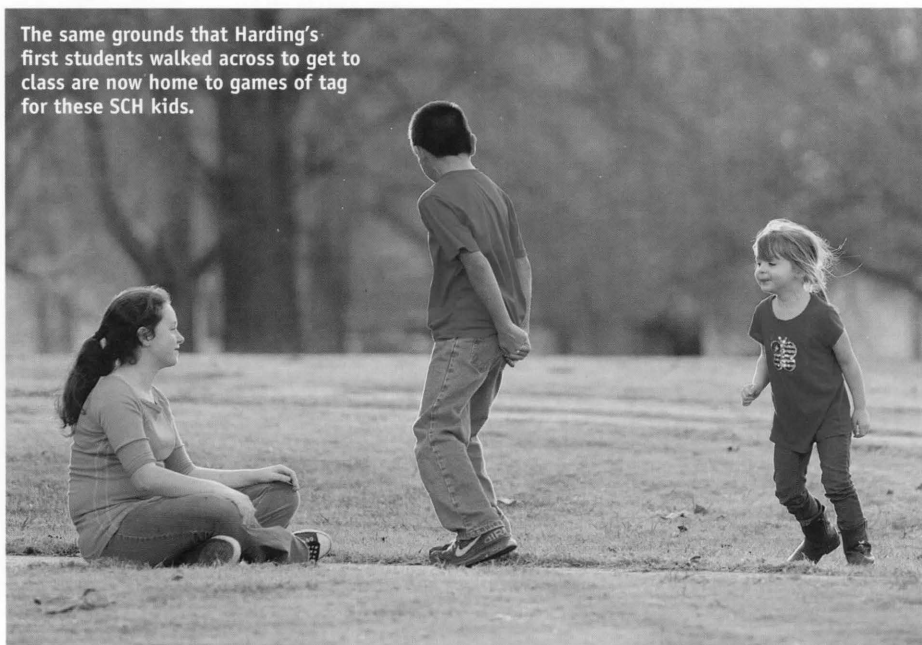
“To do this job, one must possess a servant’s heart,” Johnson says. “Caring for children who have been abandoned or abused by other adults is challenging. For some, though, there is no better reward than helping a child grow to adulthood and earning their love.”

SCH also maintains an independent living program so that, when their children turn 18 and graduate, they’re not forced to live and make it on their own. The independent living space provides a supervised setting to help the child transition into adulthood.

“All of the programs and activities are designed to help the children become healthier and self-sufficient,” Johnson says. “Our goal is to help those who come to us develop new patterns of thinking and behaving so that they can make better decisions than those that resulted in their needing out-of-



Chores like helping cook dinner and making their beds are a routine part of home life for the SCH children.



The same grounds that Harding’s first students walked across to get to class are now home to games of tag for these SCH kids.

home care in the first place.”

A single parent program is another one of the ministries SCH takes on, providing on-campus housing, counseling and caring for single parents who are in danger of being separated from their children.

“They are required to be enrolled in school or work while in our program. They also are expected to attend services at one of the local congregations.”

The dining hall, which is connected to the administration building, stands on the foundation of one of the old dormitories. The original dorm was lost in a fire. Along the walls of the dining

hall are stacks of toiletries and other household necessities.

“These were donated by one of several Christian Motorcyclists Associations who bring donations and offer support,” Johnson explains.

Much of the food and groceries for the families comes through donations as well. SCH’s 24-foot truck travels through four states to churches and other organizations that give food to the home.

A fish fry hosted by director Wayne Bartley and his wife, Teresa, is planned for later in the week, and there are

many other celebrations that take place in the dining hall.

“We have Easter egg hunts in the spring; hay rides and cook-outs in the fall; days at the lake in the summer; cards, flowers and candy at Valentine’s day; and Christmas is huge,” Johnson says. “Many people want to do something special for the kids at Christmas.”

The second floor of the administration building holds a small museum displaying the history of SCH. A beloved cook’s uniform hangs on the wall, remembering Ms. Effie Johnson and her 42 years of service. Photos of children grouped by years line the walls with smiling faces beaming from each frame. A small desk and chair sit, facing the arched window that overlooks the front lawn, and a belt with a Harding bison buckle is tucked among other SCH memorabilia as a small reminder of the space held in common between the two organizations and their shared mission — developing Christian servants in Christ’s children, whatever their origins. **H**

Inside the **SWAID CENTER** for **HEALTH SCIENCES**

By HANNAH BEALL OWENS

He knocks on the door and says, “Hi, Mr. Barnes. My name is Derek Molina. I’m a Harding University nursing student, and today I’m going to be providing care for you.”

Molina begins his assessment, collecting as much information as he can.

“Mr. Barnes, can you please state your name and date of birth?” he asks.

He continues, asking the patient why he is there. After finding out that the patient recently had a leg fracture and surgical correction, Molina’s mind processes the possible complications.

He proceeds to obtain a baseline set of vitals, listening to the patient’s lung and heart sounds. He doesn’t hear anything abnormal, so he continues. After checking both legs to compare them, he again does not see anything abnormal.

Suddenly, the patient begins to complain of shortness of breath. After checking the patient’s blood pressure and noting the increase, Molina responds immediately by placing an oxygen mask on him and turning up the level of oxygen to two liters. He raises the head of the bed, calls the physician immediately, and communicates his assessment.

“I’m concerned that this patient may be experiencing symptoms of a pulmonary embolism,” he tells the doctor.

Students in the Carr College of Nursing are getting some real nursing experience and learning how to tend to patients with a variety of needs. But these patients aren’t human.

Becca Lyle, a nursing major from Culleoka, Tenn., conducts a resuscitation on a pediatric mannequin using an Ambu bag.



Rachel James, a nursing major from Marion, Ark., listens to the lung sounds of one of the college’s high-fidelity mannequins.



Kurtis Grant, a nursing major from Cornish, Maine, performs an eye exam on fellow nursing major Luke Larsen from Lithia, Fla.





Nursing majors Laurie Vetter from East Quogue, N.Y., and Kaitlyn Leonard from Hampton, N.J., perform a bedside assessment under the direction of adjunct professor of nursing Priscilla Parsons.

NURSING HIGH-FIDELITY MANNEQUINS

The College of Nursing was able to add cutting-edge technology to the program with the construction of their new home in the Swaid Center for Health Sciences. Four bays of high-fidelity mannequins were installed. A birthing mother simulator with a newborn also was added. Each area is set up much like a patient room in a hospital. The rooms contain cameras, speakers and microphones for use of supervisors to watch students' progress and also to speak to students acting as the patient.

The mannequins can do many things including speak some basic words, blink, have pulses, dilate and constrict their pupils, breathe, and many other bodily functions. Students can take vital signs; run IV fluids, drugs and catheters; check pulses; and perform a tracheal intubation, among other things. Monitors reflect each mannequin's heart rate, pulse, oxygen levels, saturation, carbon dioxide and body temperature.

"Last week I had a situation where the patient crashed," says Jackie Harris, associate professor of nursing. "The students actually took turns doing CPR, running drugs and managing airways. They got some real-life experience at what a code is like."

A code is when a patient is not breathing, and their heart is not beating. When students perform CPR, the mannequin can actually determine if students are compressing deeply enough.

"Students are able to have a simulated-learning experience where they can make mistakes without hurting anybody," she said. "Plus, they get some 'what ifs.' They can process things in a no pressure situation."

The supervising professor can choose from a database of simulations to run with students, or they can build their own. Simulations are run for both teaching and evaluation purposes. »

SPEECH CLINIC

The Communication Sciences and Disorders Program in the Swaid Center is now working out of a brand new speech clinic. The clinic includes more space and allows the program to expand therapy options for clients and provide what students need to build a firm speech therapy foundation.

The clinic includes:

- ▷ Observation rooms that accompany every clinical room: Rather than standing out in the hallway, supervisors can now go into a small observation room and view sessions through a private window.
- ▷ Materials room: The room is the place where therapy aids, motivating toys and testing assessments are kept. This space is about four times larger than the previous space. The room also features a new barcode system used for checking out items.
- ▷ Multiple sized rooms for various age groups: Therapy rooms are now available to accommodate clients young and old. Three extra therapy rooms were added at the end of construction and make up the adult wing of the clinic.
- ▷ Clinic prep room: Students now have a much larger place to go and do work to prepare for an upcoming appointment and also complete their post-therapy reports.
- ▷ Everything is now wheelchair accessible.
- ▷ There is now a bathroom inside the clinic for clients, which better accommodates clients' needs. Previously, clients would have to leave the clinic and go to the lobby of the Reynolds building.
- ▷ Group therapy room is available.
- ▷ Instrumentation lab (named in honor of Dr. Dan Tullios): This lab features equipment for a digital swallowing test, nasometer and voice profile.
- ▷ Adaptive daily living space (named in honor of Dr. Beckie Weaver): This is set up like a kitchen, or it can be arranged like a living room. Much like a typical kitchen, it has appliances, dishes, pots and pans, mixers, crock-pots, and a dishwasher. This space, which is a new addition to the clinic, helps student therapists teach daily living skills and the order of how to do things, such as following a recipe, to clients who have experienced a traumatic brain injury. **H**



Ashley Russell, a graduate student in the speech-language pathology program from Kennewick, Wash., performs an oral exam on her client Haydn Corker.



Dr. Kevin Tripp lectures on audiology to undergraduate students in one of the program's technologically-advanced classrooms.



Jessica Aebi, speech-language pathology graduate student from Lancaster, Ohio, discusses a reading passage with her client Hunter Corker.



Sarah Passafiume, a graduate student in the University's program in speech-language pathology from Little Rock, Ark., observes a therapy session.

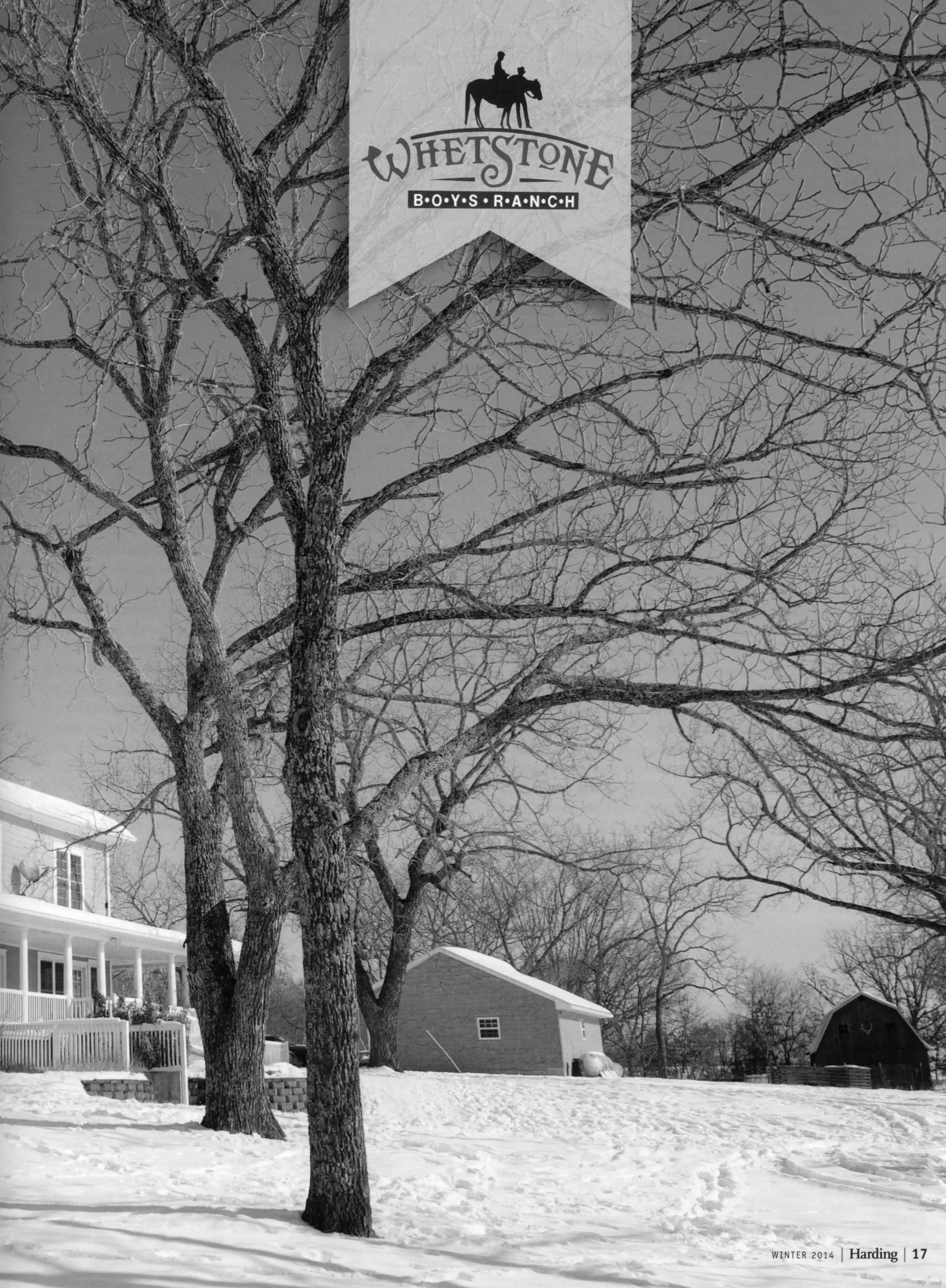
Years of planning become
a reality as Whetstone
Boy's Ranch works at

Sharpening character

By HANNAH BEALL OWENS, *photography by* JEFF MONTGOMERY

The scent of freshly cooked breakfast blows through the entryway of the house as the front door opens. The home's warmth is a comfort after traipsing through the snow out front. Coming into view first is the family dinner table and a sign above the back window that reads: "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." The house sits on Whetstone Boy's Ranch, a quiet farm in West Plains, Mo. > Whetstone, a boarding school for at-risk and troubled boys, was a dream that was tossed around for a decade. It began as an idea for which God carefully laid plans. Now, it is home to five lively teenaged boys. >>





Jeremy Thompson, executive director, and Axel Liimatta ('97), director of education, grew up together in Rochester Hills, Mich. Their parents attended Rochester College together, and during this time their families became close. As they got older and prepared for paths after high school graduation, Thompson and Liimatta went in different directions. But God had big plans for what this pair would do together.

Thompson knew exactly what he wanted to do; it was all planned out. He wanted to work in construction and eventually start his own home building business in Northern Michigan. Things didn't quite turn out exactly as he had hoped.

Thompson began pursuing a degree in construction management at Alpena (Mich.) Community College. He wanted to have a Christian college experience, and he had friends, including Liimatta, at Harding. He arranged to transfer to Harding for a year in 1994. He was able to set up classes that would help him later finish his construction degree, and after a year, he transferred to Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Mich.

During his last two years of college at Ferris State, Thompson became involved with Young Life, a Christian ministry that reaches out to middle school, high school and college students. Working 20-25 hours a week, Thompson volunteered with mission trips and camps and realized his passion for working with kids. After graduation, Thompson was simultaneously offered full-time jobs with Young Life and Pulte Homes, a major construction business in Michigan. Torn in two directions, Thompson eventually decided to put his degree to use at Pulte. But after about seven months, he became spiritually discontent.

"I missed Young Life, and I missed opportunities to work with kids," Thompson says. "I was really starting to question what I was going to be doing for the next 30 years. I started to consistently pray to God that if this wasn't what he wanted me to do with my life, then to please let me know that somehow."

This prayer continued for several months. Thompson, frustrated with the feelings he had and anxious for an answer, wanted to live how God wanted him to live, not how he wanted.

A few weeks later, he took a weekend trip to Harding. During the trip, Thompson began to get sick. By the time he got back to Michigan, he had lost much sensitivity in his fingers, and the left side of his body had essentially stopped working. After a CT scan and emergency MRI, Thompson learned he had a tumor on his brain stem. He was hospitalized for three weeks and received heavy rounds of chemotherapy and radiation.

"I remember one day lying on the bed in immense pain, and then all of a sudden I realized that God answered my prayer," Thompson says. "I felt comforted that this was God's plan somehow. I started laughing right then. This was not at all what I had in mind."

During the next five years, Thompson had to learn how to walk and talk again. The initial prognosis was that he would only live three to six months, but then he started to get better. During his recovery, he began to get close to a friend he met through church, Nathan Dahlstrom, who had a dream of one day opening a boy's ranch.

"I wasn't really on board with joining Nate [in building] Whetstone," Thompson says, "but I knew that my life had changed course dramatically, and I wasn't going to be going back into the construction business."

A few months later, Thompson moved out to New York with Dahlstrom, who was working full time at Timothy Hill Children's Ranch. He volunteered there for five months, which confirmed for him that this was what he wanted to do with his life. It was at Timothy Hill that Thompson met Brandon Maxwell, who came on board with him and Dahlstrom in building Whetstone. One year after this, Thompson and Maxwell, now Whetstone's campus supervisor, moved to Colorado, the original plan for Whetstone's location, to find a place to work with at-risk boys. While working at Doulos and Dry Bones ministries, Thompson met with Maxwell and Dahlstrom monthly for the next six years to brainstorm, plan and pray for Whetstone's future. Realizing that Colorado wasn't going to work as the ranch's location, they started looking at properties in Southern Missouri. Eventually, Thompson moved to West Plains, Mo., and began working as a juvenile officer.

Liimatta spent time at the United States Military Academy and Rochester College before coming to Harding. In his

undergraduate years, he participated in musicals, dramas, and speech and debate. Attracted to politics, he was intrigued with the University's American Studies Institute lecture series program, and he decided to pursue the field of politics. After an internship in Washington, D.C., he learned that his desired field was not family friendly. Though he wanted to stay in a similar area with a degree in law, it did not best fit what he wanted.

He found a way to combine all of his interests with a degree in social studies, a minor in English, and a license to teach. Throughout the rest of his schooling, he spent time working





Axel Liimata, director of education, and Jeremy Thompson, director, talk to the boys about the day's community service experience. The boys share what they learned from their experience picking up pigs to take care of at the ranch.

in student service organizations and reaching out to youth, keeping in contact with Thompson the whole time. It was around this time that Thompson told him about an idea about of a boy's ranch and that he had decided to join the original founder in pursuing its creation.

After graduating from Harding, Liimata taught at Central Arkansas Christian for three years and then moved to Lexington, Ky., with his wife, Christine Creasy ('94), and kids to teach. After teaching advanced placement classes and gifted and talented students in a public school for 10 years, Liimata grew unsatisfied.

"I saw that the student who needed the most help wasn't getting it," he says. "Yes, I was teaching them something; I was helping them get into good schools and become better writers and thinkers. But I felt like all the other kids were falling through the cracks. I wanted to be more proactive in spiritual development and holding kids accountable. I became attracted to the idea of a program that would reach the at-risk kid."

Liimata took a trip down to West Plains where Thompson was working as a juvenile detention officer. They visited, and Liimata learned more about the boy's ranch idea.

"There was no ranch, no boys and no program," Liimata says. "But they had some good ideas and materials. There was just nothing concrete."

Liimata felt that West Plains would be a good fit for his family, so they relocated there soon after his visit in hopes of one day fulfilling the dream of opening a boy's ranch. Liimata began working for the public school in West Plains.

"We wanted to build a place that was the best alternative for families to send their sons," Thompson says. "That's always been our goal and still is. And eventually, it happened. Other than saying that God did it, I don't know what else to say because he did."

Thompson and Maxwell visited 40 or 50 different proper-

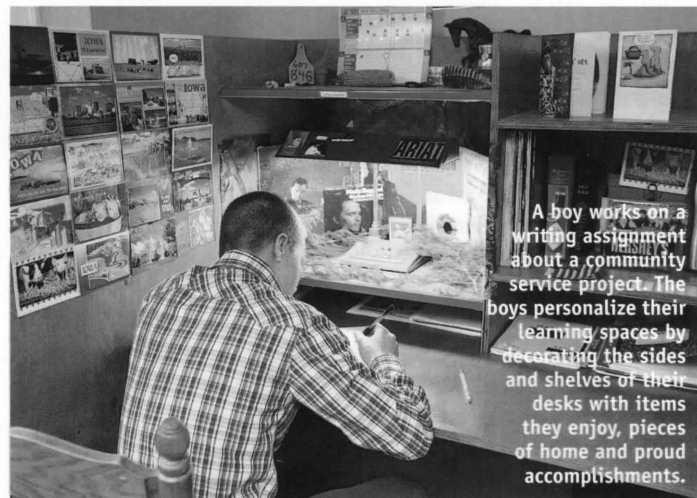
ties until finding the ranch's current location. A Whetstone board member knew the previous owner of the house and suggested checking out the property.

"We visited, and it was like they built it to be a boy's ranch," Thompson says. "Over the next couple of months, we developed a plan around this property."

"We feel like God was building this house for us before we even moved in," Liimata says. "I don't imagine that we would have built something much different."

In summer 2011, Liimata and Thompson quit their jobs and, along with Maxwell, began a fundraising campaign to acquire the property. Required to raise \$75,000 in three months, they raised close to \$110,000 and were able to close on the property. The first boy was officially placed at Whetstone on Oct. 9, 2011.

At the edge of the house's wrap-around porch, sunlight fills a corner in a sea of warmth. Ice slowly drips off the tall white columns. The squeal of two small pigs echoes across the »



A boy works on a writing assignment about a community service project. The boys personalize their learning spaces by decorating the sides and shelves of their desks with items they enjoy, pieces of home and proud accomplishments.

front yard. Five eager boys proudly stand around the pigpen they had built themselves to house their new animals. As they share with Liimatta what they'd just learned about pigs, the pig they call Dexter squeezes through the small opening of the gate. The chase for capture begins.

"We're never going to be content where we are," Thompson says. "A good program to us is not quite good enough. We're going to keep striving to develop our program the best we can."

The program is divided into four levels. To graduate from the program, boys must go through one monthlong level and three three-monthslong levels. Whetstone has seven full-time employees and three part-time employees.

"One of the big strengths we have is that we are committed to a very low ratio of staff to boy," Thompson says. "We have one employee to no more than three boys. We want to be very intentional and develop authentic mentoring relationships with them that they'll benefit from while they're here and when they leave."

The ranch sits on 285 acres of pasture and forest with unlimited opportunities for growth. Though Whetstone only owns 10 acres, they hope to begin raising money next year to obtain the entire property. Many of Whetstone's resources, such as furniture, appliances, vehicles and animals, were donated.

"We started with the faith that God would provide, and he did," Thompson says. "We didn't have to spend a lot of money for operating costs because so many people were willing to donate."

Whetstone's mission is to "sharpen the character of young men by modeling the life of Christ, mentoring them through

authentic relationships, imparting the love of creation, and teaching the joy of work, thus equipping them to be servant-leaders in their families and communities."

It takes 11-13 months to complete the program in its entirety. The foundation of Whetstone's therapy is mentoring and modeling positive behaviors in a healthy environment. Part of this therapy includes group counseling, family counseling, community service, working with animals and vocational training. Boys gain hands-on experience in fence building and repair, carpentry, welding, leatherwork, garden-

ing, plumbing, and minor electrical repair.

"The main goal is to have more therapeutic opportunities with the boys," Thompson says. "Part of our mission is to teach the boys to work and teach them the joy of working. We really wanted to get them outdoors and in God's creation. We believe that God's creation speaks to us and has the ability to change us."

Downstairs in the classroom, the boys are seated in their tall, wooden cubicles working on their weekly writing assignment



about their interactions with the new pigs. Liimatta stands at the head of the class giving helpful suggestions.

"Write about the pig getting loose, and the dog almost eating it. Make it realistic," he says.

Under their desk lights, the boys bow their heads deep in words and thought. Soon after, the music appreciation lecture begins.

"They say that classical music is good for the brain," Liimatta says.

"I don't know about that," a boy calls out as laughter erupts.

"The music is actually a really big part of what happens down here setting the mood, environment and atmosphere," Liimatta says. "Many of them have had so few choices, and most of them have made poor choices."

A unique component to the boys' schooling is Liimatta's music appreciation lectures. He teaches the boys about all genres of music including rock and roll, jazz, country, and classical, and all of the music he plays is on vinyl.

The boys attend school four days a week year round. They attend chapel on school days. Wednesday is a day for community service.

Liimatta uses a learner-based, mastery-based curriculum in the classroom. The boys teach the material to themselves, and Liimatta directs, monitors and encourages them as they hit bumps in the road. Because each state has different educational requirements, the curriculum allows Liimatta to teach a variety of age groups. The performance expectations are high; boys have to score at least an 80 percent to move on to the next section.

"The worst grade they could have when leaving Whetstone is a C plus or B minus," Liimatta says. "Most of them have a B plus or A minus average, and that's usually coming from Fs."

Firewood frosted with ice begins to pile up on the back porch, evidence of tough manual labor, hard teenage work, and boys becoming men. Matt Foster ('10), program director, explains to a boy about the motion of heat and building a fire. The boy sits attentively — learning, listening and absorbing everything Foster says. Everyone quickly sweeps up the icy deck and hurries inside to get warm by the freshly made fire.



Axel Liimatta helps some of the boys crush ice as a water source for the animals to drink. The program teaches animal husbandry, allowing the boys to work with and take care of animals.



A boy chops wood to stock up the ranch's firewood supply. Part of Whetstone's mission is to teach the boys how to work hard and maintain responsibilities.

"I first met [Thompson] in 2002 at Timothy Hill Children's Ranch on a spring break campaign with Abilene Christian University," Foster says. "That was when I was first recruited into the business of making men."

After graduating from ACU in 2004 with a degree in youth and family ministry, Foster went to work for Timothy Hill.

"I found that in my time there how I was interacting with the guys looked a lot like very uneducated therapy," Foster says. "I had a degree in youth and family ministry, and while I knew that was good, I knew that I was suited for a more intensive, one-on-one relationship."

He decided to pursue a degree in marriage and family therapy from Harding after three years working in New York. He graduated in 2010, worked with Capstone Treatment Center in Searcy for three years, and then came to work at Whetstone in November 2013.

"I make sure that everything that the boys do is therapeutically successful," Foster says. "I also work with families at home to create an environment that they can return to."

In his office, Thompson pulls out a knife blade and a whetstone made of novaculite. He places the knife at an angle and drags the blade across the stone.

"A whetstone is used as the traditional way to sharpen a knife blade. To do it effectively, you have to have it at the right angle and the right amount of pressure. Not too soft. Not too hard. Not haphazard. Intentional," Thompson says. "That's what Whetstone is. We push these boys, but we don't grind them down into the stone because that wouldn't be effective. But we have to give it enough pressure to achieve the desired result: a sharp blade — a sharp character." **H**

How I met your mother: HARDING LOVE STORIES COME TO THE SURFACE



Compiled by
JENNIFER HANNIGAN

“Three swings and a ring” is a common refrain heard on campus, alluding to the fact that many Harding students meet their eventual spouse while in school, some while sitting on the white swings on the quadrangle. In 2013, a Facebook study showed that 28 percent of married Facebook users in the U.S. met their spouses in college. Harding found itself in the lists for top 25 colleges where women find their spouses and where men find theirs — nabbing the No. 3 spot in that category. ▸ While few find themselves tripping over men proposing down on one knee on their way to class, it’s true that many students marry people whom they’ve met in their four years in school. ▸ We asked those who found their spouse at Harding to share their stories here.

A LONG AND WINDING ROAD

My father, C. Ray Miller, was a Harding student around 1941 to 1944. While he was here he dated Eva Floyd. From all the stories, it was one of those relationships where they laughed and giggled a lot.

Dad, who was studying to be a preacher, purchased a ring to ask Eva to marry him. At the same time she realized that she wanted to have a family and have deep ties to a congregation and a community. Unfortunately, at that time, full-time preachers rarely stayed in one location more than four years at the very most. She realized that was not the life that she desired.

So, when he asked her to marry him, she declined.

Eva returned to her hometown of Nashville, Ark., where she met D.L. Green at church. They dated, married and had four children.

Dad became that preacher who moved every few years. He met and married my mother, Theda Robins, herself a preacher’s daughter. They met at Harding and married after he and Eva were no longer dating.

My mother died after a lengthy bout with cancer. He took care of her and also took care of her widowed sister who also had a lengthy illness. Immediately after both of their deaths, he had heart surgery, a surgery he had been postponing to take care of them.

He moved to Searcy to recuperate,

and we lived together.

Eva had a similar story, caring for a son with cerebral palsy and husband who was sick for more than 10 years while she took care of him before he passed away.

Once Dad had recuperated from the surgery, he was regularly out traveling, catching up with old friends.

One day, I received a phone call asking me to come to Nashville, Ark., to perform his wedding.

He had been at a gospel meeting where Eva also was attending. Except for a brief chance meeting in the David B. Burks American Heritage Building many years earlier, this was the first time they had seen each other in more than

50 years. Eva's statement to me was, "I saw him, and the sparks were still there." It was two weeks after they met when I received the phone call asking me to do their wedding.

The wedding had to be postponed because of Homecoming but was held later in her home with her family, Dad and me in attendance.

I have said more than once that it is a surreal and wonderful experience to look your father in the face and say the words, "You may kiss your bride."

They were together for five years before Dad died.

Right as they were getting married, there was an indication that Dad might be sick. He asked her if she wanted to call off the wedding. "If it was the other way around, what would you do?" she asked. "We'd get married, and I'd take care of you," he said. "Yes, and that is what we are going to do," she replied.

— Robin Miller ('77)
Searcy

THE UPSIDE TO RUNNING OUT OF GAS

I met my wife at Harding when I ran out of gas. Bethany and I were at a Sunday afternoon youth campus fellowship meeting at Dwight Smith's home. When it was time to leave, I needed a ride back to campus. As Beth walked out, she offered me a ride. Obviously, I had to say thanks and pay her back by asking her to a movie at the Rialto two nights later. After writing a \$2 check for the movie, I took her to the old TCBY on Race for some yogurt. We were together every night until spring break, basically all summer long and married later that year. A wonderful 30-year marriage and five awesome kids later, I guess running out of gas wasn't that bad of a thing to do that one time!

— Jimmy McDowell ('83)
Jupiter, Fla.

MS. PAC-MAN MEETS HER MISTER

On a mild January evening in 1988, Bobby and I both ended up in the campus arcade with quarters ready to spend! I was playing Ms. Pac-Man (quite well), and Bobby placed his quarter on the machine signaling he wanted to play the next game. Shortly after, my game was over, but, sensing I wanted to continue playing, Bobby challenged me to a doubles game. I accepted and won! He

offered to play another round, and again I won. Since he couldn't beat me at that game, he offered to buy me a soda. After introducing ourselves, we walked around campus, visiting until curfew. We married in January 1990 and, two amazing sons later, we still love video games!

— Amy Rasche Gunn ('90)
Trussville, Ala.

A FATEFUL INTRODUCTION

In 1998, I met Joseph Toye in health and safety class. It was surprising since he was a junior in a freshman-level class, but he had neglected to take it when the rest of his class did. Coach James Frank said we had to introduce ourselves because "you might meet your future spouse in this class." Outwardly I rolled my eyes and groaned with everyone else, but inwardly I agreed and paid close attention. I picked him right out, told my friend Becca that I was going to date him, and that I had to switch seats next class to sit behind him. It worked, and even though he was "the Regina beaux who didn't seriously date," I stole him away, and we have been married almost 12 years now.

— Kelly Simmons Toye ('01)
Bangor, Maine

LOVE ON A STICK

It was my sophomore year, and I was working in the cafeteria. I had done a fast food stint the summer before, so I asked to be put on the grill. For a couple of days, I worked with some boys who were less than motivated.

Then came corn dog day. I dreaded corn dog day. Do you know how many corn dogs one football player can eat? At least eight — four for each hand. That fateful corn dog day, I had a new coworker. He was obviously a corn dog day veteran. He knew exactly how to keep things running smoothly to avoid football player wrath. That day, all I could think was, "Finally! Someone who works hard!"

Jason and I continued to work together at the grill. We laughed together and got to know one another, but I had already decided to concentrate on my studies instead of boys — until he asked me out. Then, I looked up and noticed what beautiful brown eyes he had. I already had plans for that night, so I told Jason I would take a rain check, but I

thought it was probably over. Thankfully, Jason had a wonderful friend who told him not to give up. He asked me again to go to the Homecoming musical.

We continued to date and work together at Aramark until he graduated in May. Our long distance relationship had its rocky moments, but we pulled through. One week after I graduated, Jason and I were married.

Eleven years and three kids later, I am grateful to Harding for many things, especially introducing me to a wonderful man of God. I pray every day that my children will be able to find spouses who can help them go to heaven, too.

— Melissa Morris Baker ('02)
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

MOTHER KNOWS BEST

I met Justin Breezeel before college ever started, and we turned out to be HU college sweethearts. We met at Summer Experience June 22, 2005, while picking chapel seats in "the pit." The lines for the computer were long, so my mom and I split up to see whose line would go faster. My mom's line won, and it just so happened that Justin was in front of my mom. I'm not sure if she thought I really needed help picking a chapel seat, or if she wanted to embarrass me, but my mom asked Justin to help me find a chapel seat on the computer. I was completely embarrassed, and while he seemed interested, he made a huge misstep by putting my chapel seat nowhere near his. A chapel seat was selected, and we parted ways.

Throughout the rest of the day, we kept running into each other, and we would say hi and smile. I wasn't sure how interested he was in me because there was one Summer Experience activity where we ran into each other, and the first thing he did was ask me about my mom. We eventually exchanged contact information and kept in touch all summer.

We met back up at Student Impact later that summer and hung out every day; he decided to be in my Student Impact group even though it wasn't his assigned group. Our friendship led to dating, and five years of dating eventually led to marriage. This Texas girl never would have met this amazing Illinois man had it not been for Harding ... and my mom.

— Stacey Geraci Breezeel ('09)
Texarkana, Texas

[Connections]

1963

Bob Chick retired from Caterpillar Inc. and the U.S. Naval Reserve. He is a crew member on Landing Ship, Tank 325. The LST is a moving tribute to all veterans. (P.O. Box 101, 210 S. State St., Bryant, IL 61519)

Danny Kingsley has been square and round dancing for 25 years. He was elected president of the Texas Association of Single Square Dancers for the fifth year, having been a member 23 years. In May he was given the honor of Ranch Host of the Year by the National Ranching Heritage Association where he serves as ranch host and event photographer and coordinates an old period country western dance team. (8008 W. 34th St., Lot #58, Lubbock, TX 79407)

1972

David M. Lacey was named Educator of the Year by the National Christian School Association in March 2013. After 20 years of practicing trial law following earning a master's at Duke University in 1974 and a J.D. from The University of Texas School of Law in 1976, he began a career in Christian education at Westbury Christian School. He serves as the upper-school principal; teaches AP courses in macroeconomics, microeconomics and government; and serves as legal counsel. His wife, **Joy Womack**, has worked at Westbury Christian School as an elementary school teacher for 24 years. They have two children, **Justin** ('01) and **Heather Holland** ('02), and two grandchildren. (14931 Grassington, Channelview, TX 77530)

1974

Jim Trotter was promoted to director of the Dr. Charles Dunlap Center for Research, Education and Technology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry Sept. 1, 2013. He also serves as course director for aesthetic dentistry. He is an elder, and his wife, Sandy, serves as women's ministry minister at Overland Park Church of Christ. They have two children. (12028 Goddard Ave., Overland Park, KS 66213)

Michael Westerfield was elected to the Board of Governors of National American University. He is vice president and dean of

the Graduate College at William Woods University. (812 Evergreen Drive, Fulton, MO 65251)

1976

Connie Barnes Cox, adult education instructor for Northwest Arkansas Community College in Bentonville, was one of three chosen to represent Arkansas at the National Adult Education College and Career Readiness Training Design Initiative in Louisville, Ky., in May 2013. She also was chosen to serve on the Arkansas Adult Education Standards Committee, which creates adult educational standards for Arkansas. She received her master's degree in adult education from University of Arkansas in May 2011. She and her husband, **James**, have two children, **Jared** ('03) and **Ruth Anne Thornton** ('05). (11744 Hickory Drive, Bentonville, AR 72712)

1977

Bill Searcy received the certificate for certified pastoral counselor of the American Association of Pastoral Coun-

sors in October 2013. In June 2013 he received the certified fee-based practicing pastoral counseling associate from the North Carolina State Board of Fee-Based Practicing Pastoral Counselors. He also recently completed four continuing education counseling courses at Harvard University Medical School. (212 Old Colony Way, Rocky Mount, NC 27804)

1983

Steve Reeves accepted the position as pulpit minister at West Side Church of Christ in Searcy, Ark., in September. He and his wife, **Rebecca "Tami" Harris** ('81), have four children. (12 Gin Creek Drive, Searcy, AR 72143)

Jane Gore Whitledge is community relations specialist for the Frisco (Texas) Independent School District, the fastest growing school district in the nation. She is a former school board member and has worked in the Fisd communications department since 2005. She was awarded the Spirit of Frisco Award by the Frisco Chamber of Commerce in 2013 for her

contributions to the community and to the youth of Frisco. She and her husband, Hugh, have two sons, Nate and Will. (8573 Scott Circle, Frisco, TX 75034)

1985

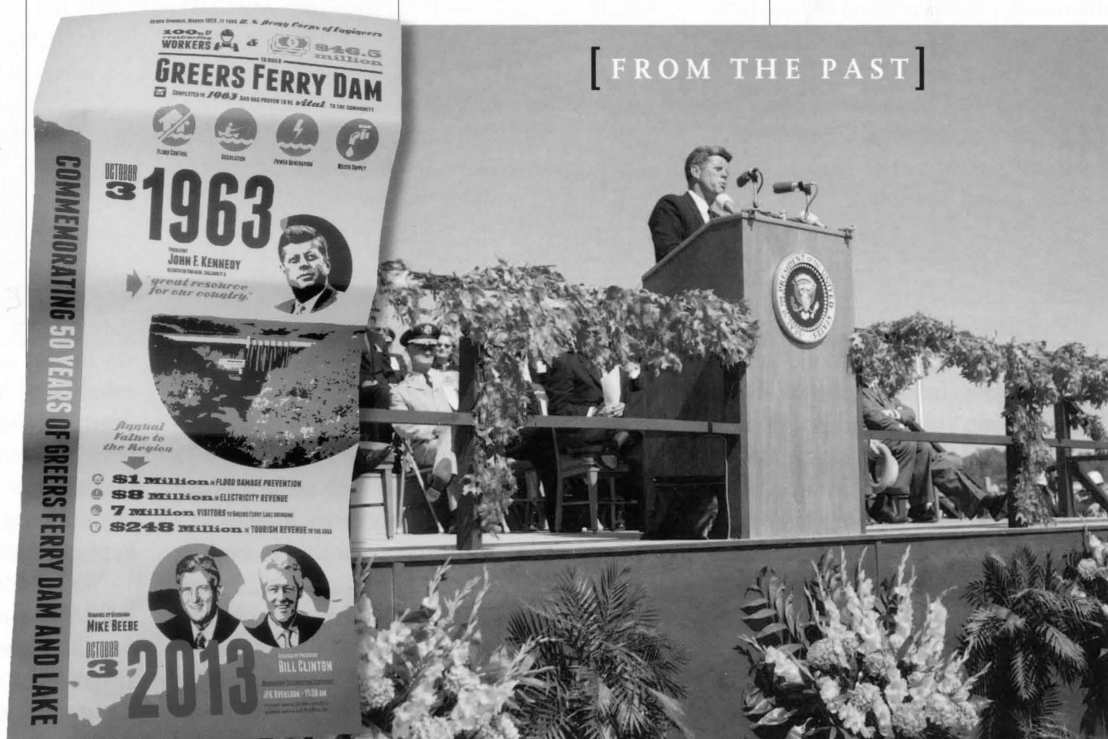
Mark Stevens was appointed a director for Athlon Energy by the board of directors. He is a tax consultant for Morningstar Partners and previously served as senior vice president of taxation of XTO Energy Inc. for 22 years. He also serves on the board of HomeBank Texas. He and his wife, **Angela Fletcher**, have three children. (3605 Orchid Lane, Arlington, TX 76016)

1993

Jay Baker is senior minister at Vancouver (Wash.) Church of Christ. His wife, **Andrea Robertson** ('94), home-schools their four children: Curt, Hannah, James and Davis. (15519 N.E. 181st Loop, Brush Prairie, WA 98606)

1995

Dona Kolde Clarin received a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Samford University Aug.



Upon the completion of Greers Ferry Dam in Heber Springs, Ark., President John F. Kennedy traveled to the Natural State to preside over its dedication. Harding students were in attendance at the site Oct. 3, 1963, and witnessed what would be Kennedy's last major public appearance before his assassination in Dallas that November. During the fall 2013 semester, another group of University students were able to attend the 50th anniversary of the dedication and heard from President Bill Clinton, who said of Kennedy, "In death he became for all the rest of us ... the symbol of the eternal future, the symbol of what we always have to become and that America was always going to be, a country on the move, always becoming, always redefining itself."



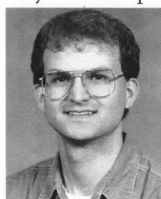
10, 2013. She is an assistant professor at the University of Tennessee in Memphis and a family nurse practitioner. She and her husband, James, have two children, Nathan and Alexiz. (4344 Bloombury St., Southaven, MS 38672)

1997

Mat and **Shanna Lumpkins Dusz**a announce the birth of twin daughters, Adelaide Violet and Annie Opal, July 8, 2013. They also have another daughter, Evie. Mat is assistant director for Seay Child Care Center at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Plano, and Shanna is administrative assistant for Preston Road Church of Christ. (2000 Albert Road, Carrollton, TX 75007)

Christine Jandecka Rogers is special assistant to the director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Services at the National Institutes of Health. She received a master's in communication in August 2013 from Johns Hopkins University with a dual concentration in health communication and public and media relations. Her husband, **Eric** ('95), is a program specialist at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, also at the NIH. They have a son, Eric. (10607 Tuppence Court, Rockville, MD 20850)

Joseph Williams celebrated 15 years in a private Christian



counseling practice in his hometown of Mayfield, Ky., Oct. 16, 2013. He is a founding member of a drug

abuse prevention coalition in his community. He received a five-year, \$625,000 federal grant in September 2013 from the drug-free communities support program and will be supervising the implementation of the drug abuse prevention action plans. He also teaches seventh- and eighth-grade Sunday school classes. (209 E. Sunset Drive, Mayfield, KY 42066)

1998

Brad and Amy Christy Williams announce the adoption of a daughter, Aubrey Kate, Oct. 10, 2013, born Nov. 11, 2011. They have another daughter, Sadie



Called to serve

As the old expression goes: Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day; show him how to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime. This idea resonates strongly with **Clarence Hulse** ('92).

Hulse, a Belize native, knew he had a calling to make a difference. Working in missions before he got to college, he realized how he wanted to serve.

"A lot of people need help, but sometimes spending money on people doesn't quite get them the help they need," he said. "It then became one of my life callings for me to help people empower themselves. Working in public service was something I looked forward to."

For two and a half years, Hulse worked with an international organization called Youth With a Mission. He traveled around Southern Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala working with orphanages and refugee camps and teaching basic living skills, English and sharing the Gospel. It was here that his heart for public service started to grow.

Hulse knew he wanted to pursue a college education in the states. He was accepted into the Walton International Scholars Program at John Brown University but transferred to Harding after a year to obtain a degree in public administration.

"My Harding degree and college experience was my foundation," he said. "I learned what made a city or state attractive for business and how public institutions and private sectors work together to build successful communities."

After graduating from Harding, he attended the University of Southern Mississippi to achieve a Master of Science degree in economic development.

"Ever since I got to graduate school, I knew this was my way to give back, empower people and impact lives," he said. "I have never looked back since."

Since completion of his degrees, Hulse has worked as a senior economic development manager, deputy city manager, and director of economic development.

In November 2013, Hulse was named the new executive director of the economic development corporation of Michigan City, Ind. In this role Hulse is responsible for working with private sectors and public institutions to create and implement business friendly policies to attract and grow new industries and expand existing businesses. In doing so, he aims to create jobs and increase capital investment for his community.

Throughout his career, he has won numerous awards for his accomplishments, including Outstanding New Developer of the Year award. He was selected by his peers and is serving his second term as a board member of the International Economic Development Council. **H**

— Hannah Beall Owens

Jane. Brad works for Arkansas Department of Education, and Amy works for Central Arkansas Christian Schools. (6 Bjorn Borg Court, Little Rock, AR 72210)

Scott ('98) and **Cheryl Gilbert Savage** announce the adoption of a son, Noah Jaxon, Aug. 21, 2013. They also have a daughter,

Madilyn Faith. Scott is a 3-D designer for Wal-Mart, and Cheryl is a financial analyst for Tyson Foods. (21370 Dale Rouse Road, Springdale, AR 72762)

1999

Brian Finrow has joined Deep Domain Inc. as its chief business

officer. He earned a J.D. from Harvard Law School. (1907 First Ave., #46, Seattle, WA 98101)

Garrett and Allison Black Hubbard announce the birth of a daughter, Ryland Paige, April 25, 2013. (196 Heather Glen Road, Sterling, VA 20165)

2000

Jeremy Butt is the preacher for North View Church of Christ in Columbia, Tenn. He and his wife, Dianna, have three children, Conner, Chandler and Caroline. (2851 New Highway 7, Santa Fe, TN 38482)

Don and Tianay Chambers Carroll announce the birth of a daughter, Dalayni Reagan, March 7, 2013. They have two other daughters, Makena and Brooklyn. Don works for Bank of America, and Tianay is a homemaker. (924 Hidden Hollow Court, Coppell, TX 75019)

2001

Michael and Hannah Rhodes Rogers announce the birth of a son, Tate Lincoln, March 15, 2013. They have three other children, Wesley, Anna Kate and Carigan. Michael is a professor at University of Florida, and Hannah is a homemaker. (5714 Buck Run Drive, Lakeland, FL 33811)

2002

Ben and Kristina Watkins Stephens announce the birth of a daughter, Finleigh Grace, May 22, 2013. Ben works for Half Associates, and Kristina works for Campbell Counseling Group PLLC. (7105 North Point Drive, Rowlett, TX 75089)

John ('01) and **Hollie Dayhoff Weber** announce the birth of a son, Zane Sterner, March 26, 2013. They also have a daughter, Ava. John is tech manager at Bank of America, and Hollie is a homemaker. (315 Rustic Oaks Drive, Wentzville, MO 63385)

2003

Kyle and Whitney Waller Bielefeld announce the birth of a son, Locke Josef, Feb. 18, 2013. They also have a daughter, Paige. Kyle is a pediatric cardiologist at University of Oklahoma-Tulsa. (420 W. 127th Place S., Jenks, OK 74037)

Rob and Jennie Sifford Hopper announce the birth of a son, Levi Lynn, Oct. 30, 2013. They have another son, Jude. Rob is

a trainer at Dell, and Jennie is a homemaker. (113 Teelia Drive, Old Hickory, TN 37138)

Amanda Jenkins Cothren was named editor-in-chief and creative director of the new quarterly magazine *Edible Ozarkansas*, which promotes local foods, farms and culture of Northwest Arkansas. Amanda also is creative director at University of Arkansas. (21281 S. Highway 71, Winslow, AR 72959)

Andy and Robin Pitman Lawrence announce the birth of a daughter, Harper Belle, Sept. 18, 2012. They have another daughter, Malory. Andy is a seventh-grade social studies teacher and coaches wrestling and basketball, and Robin is a kindergarten teacher. Both are at Pike Township Schools in Indianapolis. (2360 Hanover Road, Brownsburg, IN 46112)

Philip and Traci Wheeler Minter announce the birth of a son, Henry-Philip Alton, Oct. 6, 2012. They also have a daughter, Emilia. (3448 Chandler Cove Way, Antioch, TN 37013)

Jarod Varner was named executive director and CEO July 2013 for Central Arkansas Transit Authority, which provides bus and streetcar service to Central Arkansas. He received his Master of Public Administration degree from University of North Texas. He was named one of the 2011 Top 40 Under 40 transit professionals by Mass Transit magazine. His wife, **Paige Tenery**, is a homemaker after teaching elementary school for seven years. They have two children, Allie and Jack. (4516 Austin Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72116)

2004

Ryan and **Elizabeth Elliott Benedict** announce the birth of a son, Carter Barrett, July 30, 2013. Ryan is an electrical engineer at Burns & McDonnell Engineering, and Elizabeth is a speech-language pathologist at Longview Farm Elementary. (1508 N.E. Whitestone Drive, Lee's Summit, MO 64086)

Scott ('05) and Emily Patton Walters announce the adoption of a son, John Price, born Sept. 14, 2012. They also have a daughter, Daisy. Scott is an assistant principal at Mt. Juliet High School, and Emily is a homemaker. (985 Pointview

Circle, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122)

Cade ('05) and Pam Sullivan Wood announce the birth of a daughter, Cora Jane, June 13, 2013. They have three other children, Mali, Coen and Kale. Cade is director of housing at Little Rock Air Force Base, and

Pam is a labor and delivery registered nurse and clinical associate in Harding's College of Nursing. (131 Wild Plum Drive, Cabot, AR 72023)

2005

Sara Wright Bates received a

Master of Science in social work May 2013 from University of Tennessee-Knoxville. She works at the Department of Children's Services as a child and family team meeting facilitator and trainer and is also a field instructor for a social work stu-

Shop sisters

From an early age, the Merritt sisters knew they wanted to start a business together, and through the creation of their store, Shop Bella C, **Laura Merritt Walker ('09) and Cristie Merritt ('11)** have made their dreams a reality.

Walker, who describes herself as more detail oriented, earned her degree in marketing while Merritt pursued a degree in fashion merchandising.

"She is more on the creative side," Walker said of her sister. "So working with each other actually goes very smoothly. There have been different things that we've been able to help each other grow in and see how it works together as the whole. She has been fabulous to get to work with, and I'm thrilled we've gotten this opportunity."

Merritt feels that their close relationship and their balance of strengths adds to the experience.

"[Working together] has been the best career decision I could have made and probably will ever make," Merritt said. "It's been such a blessing to have my sister as a business partner. She brings so many qualities to this business that I respect and that I'm blessed to learn from every day."

Having always enjoyed clothes and fashion, they both wanted to open a clothing boutique of their own. Each worked in various retail settings, gathering the experience they would need to start their own store, and they first dove into the market through trunk shows and selling jewelry while building a name for themselves. Once Merritt graduated, the sisters took on the business full time.

"We started out of [Merritt's] house," Walker said. "We had a couple of rooms of the house, and that's when we launched our website boutique, shopbellac.com, and when we took on the shows full time."

The retail shows had Walker and Merritt traveling many weekends to cities like Little Rock, Ark.; Dallas, and Nashville, Tenn., returning to Searcy only to reload their 16-foot trailer and hit the road again.

"We fell in love with it," Walker said. "We threw all of our time into it, and everything went toward building up the business. We prayed like crazy, and God really blessed us. The first couple of years was amazing."

By the third year, they had outgrown

Merritt's house and began looking for more room.

"We couldn't expand any further; we were to the gills. At that point we had taken on clothing and everything on the website."

Having hired a business manager, the women moved Shop Bella C out of Merritt's house and into a retail space in Searcy.

"The place was a perfect fit. Before we opened this as retail, we were able to do everything for our website, including all of our shipping departments, and we ran all of our shows here. This space was a godsend."

The sign and displays in the front windows attracted attention, and soon people were knocking at the door asking if the store was open. The interest along with much prayer encouraged the sisters to open the storefront in addition to their online store and traveling to retail shows.

"We're ahead of schedule on where we thought we'd be," Walker said. "We were just so happy with the response. People in the community have been wonderful."

The two women feel that much of their success stemmed from the training they received at Harding.

"It helped us through the different business clubs that [Merritt] and I were in. I'm really grateful for the well-rounded degrees that they create there," Walker said. "We were pleased when we got out in the workforce and saw how prepared we were through Harding."

While the sisters are excited about where the future is headed, Merritt says they are keeping their focus on what really matters.

"My hopes for the business are to continue to grow while always making sure to keep the focus on what's most important — being a light in this world for God's kingdom." ■

— Jennifer Hannigan



Cristie Merritt and Laura Walker



dent from UT. Her husband is **Montae** ('05). (4125 Riverstone Lane, Knoxville, TN 37918)

Scott ('04) and **Alison Brown Colvin** announce the birth of a son, Silas James, Sept. 5, 2013. They also have a daughter, Sophia Grace. Scott is a research analyst in Huntsville, Ala., and Alison is a homemaker. (97 Coldsprings Drive, Harvest, AL 35749)

Joshua and Gladys Roraback Harms announce the birth of a son, Jonathan Arthur, Oct. 26, 2013. Joshua is a professor of criminal justice at Middle Tennessee State University, and Gladys is an occupational therapist at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. (2913 Haviland Way, Murfreesboro, TN 37128)

Allan and Kara Kirk announce the birth of a son, Allan Trevor II, Sept. 2, 2013. Allan is an associate for Jones Day in Houston, and Kara is a homemaker. (21702 Balsam Brook Lane, Katy, TX 77450)

Cora Smith Platt received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Southern Methodist University in Dallas Aug. 6, 2013. Her husband is **Clay** ('07). (1003 Ridgecrest Drive, McKinney, TX 75069)

Ryan ('09) and **Elisha Eacret Stahler** announce the birth of a son, Titus Ryan, Dec. 9, 2013. They have two other children, Chloe and Eli. Ryan is a supervisor of pipeline operations for Enbridge, and Elisha is a homemaker. (4904 W. Loper Ave., Stillwater, OK 74074)

Steven and Mindy Haney Wilber announce the birth of a daughter, Caroline Rose, July 25, 2013. Steven is a senior software engineer, and Mindy is a registered nurse. (6011 W. 110th Place, Westminster, CO 80020)

2006

Brandon and **Crystal Kellar Conder** announce the birth of a daughter, Kasden Bethley, Sept. 10, 2013. They also have a son, Gaige Thomas. Brandon works doing catastrophe recovery around the world, and Crystal is a homemaker. (11201 Walrond Ave., Kansas City, MO 64137)

Matt Summitt is the recipient of the Arkansas Society of Certified Public Accountants 2013 Outstanding Emerging CPA Award. He and his wife, **Lana Gilbert**, have a daughter, Shelby.

[ALMA MATTERS]

Road trip revises Harding's history

By LIZ HOWELL, assistant to the president for alumni and parent relations

In December 1933, J.N. Armstrong and his son-in-law, L.C. Sears, drove to Searcy from Harding's home in Morrilton, Ark., to take a look at Galloway Female College, later known as Galloway Women's College. Galloway was one of the longest survivors from among the schools established in the 1800s by the Methodist Episcopal Church in Arkansas. Dedicated in honor of Bishop Charles Betts Galloway on April 18, 1889, the school endured until its final merger in 1933 with Hendrix College in Conway, Ark.



Liz Howell

In the midst of the Great Depression, Armstrong and Sears took a leap of faith to see if the abandoned Galloway campus could become the new home for Harding College. Named for James A. Harding, the senior college began in 1924 with the merger of two junior colleges, Arkansas Christian in Morrilton and Harper College in Kansas with Armstrong as president.

Sears describes how the campus looked more than 80 years ago in his book *For Freedom*.

"The high fences, which had once made the Galloway campus a lovely park for 15 deer, were no longer there. But the two arched entrances with their stone pillars and massive chains, which may long ago have locked across the drive, were still symbols of the security Galloway had once offered its young women. The campus was covered with immense oaks, some more than 100 years old, and leaves lay deep over lawn and walkways, for the campus had been deserted ...

"Beyond a brick music building with large studios furnished with grand pianos was a beautiful girls' dormitory (which is Pattie Cobb)

finished only a few years before. Morrilton had nothing to compare with it ...

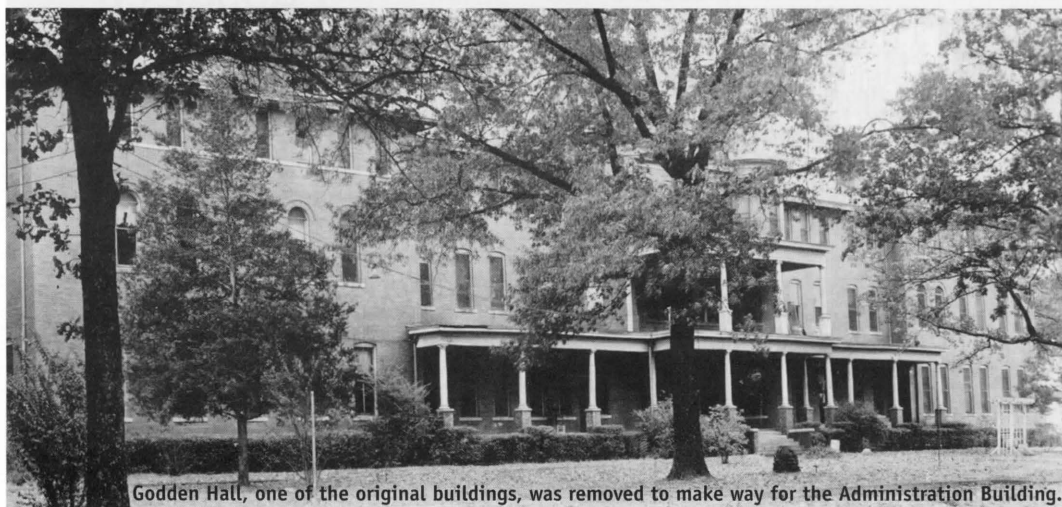
"Adjacent to the girls' dormitory at the center of the drive was an immense three-story brick structure, perhaps 250 feet long with wings extending back at each end. It was the oldest of the buildings but, when erected in the 1800s, must have been one of the finest buildings in the state. There was a large reception room, studios with pianos, classroom and library on the ground, an auditorium on second floor, and enough room on second and third to house more than twice the number of boys we could take in Morrilton ...

"Altogether there were eight buildings for college use, three cottages, the laundry, and two service buildings — 14 in all. The property was assessed by the Chancery Court at \$604,575.34."

Both of the men were impressed by the physical plant and shared their excitement with B. Frank Lowery, a Harding board member. Lowery also was impressed, and the dream was put in motion.

The men learned they could get the entire property and equipment for \$75,000 with a down payment of \$7,000, and the balance could be paid at \$4,000 per year, which included interest for 11 years and the final payment would be due in the 12th year.

With this information, the board voted eight to three to move Harding to Searcy on March 27, 1934. In September 1934, classes began, and the rest is history. A fact-finding road trip, a leap of faith, and a strong belief in the value of a Christian education have enriched the lives of more than 53,000 alumni while creating friendships, launching careers, and making memories that will last through eternity. ■



Godden Hall, one of the original buildings, was removed to make way for the Administration Building.

(125 Navajo Trail, Maumelle, AR 72113)

2007

Roger Davenport has joined Rector Phillips Morse Inc./CORFAC as a commercial real estate agent. (777 S. Kerr Road, Lonoke, AR 72086)

Jason and Rachel Javellana

Eades announce the birth of a son, Jeriah Allan, Aug. 17, 2013. They have two other sons, Elías and Judah. (109 Earl Ave., Yukon, OK 73099)

Aaron ('08) and Erin Gray Howell announce the birth of a son, Emory Winter, Jan. 4, 2013. Aaron is pursuing his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering at Georgia Tech, and Erin is an auditor at a regional accounting firm. (3550 Palisade Lake Drive, Duluth, GA 30096)

Greg and Andrea Orr Parks announce the birth of a son, Nolan William, Aug. 1, 2013. Greg is an associate minister with Eastridge Church of Christ, and Andrea teaches in the church's preschool program. (289 Plum Tree Drive, Rockwall, TX 75087)

Michael ('08) and McKenna Camp Pruitt announce the birth of a son, Thaniel Sawyer, born Nov. 8, 2013. They have two other children, Hunter and Thatcher. Michael is completing his final year in Harding's physical therapy program. (16 Garden Drive, Searcy, AR 72143)

Elia Toruño married Pedro López March 17, 2012. Elia is the compliance manager for Genpact Guatemala, and Pedro is a financial consultant for PricewaterhouseCoopers Guatemala. (18 Ave. Final, Condominio Quinta Los Encinos, Fase n.3 Casa B-15 Zona 7, Mixco, Guatemala)

2008

Brittney Davidson Moore is a reading instructor at Chattanooga State Community College. (3400 Jenkins Road, #624, Chattanooga, TN 37421)

Dale ('07) and Triston Graham Coley announce the birth of a son, Hagen Graham, Oct. 23, 2013. They also have a daughter, Ayla. Dale is a coach and teacher at Champion High School in Boerne, Texas, and Triston is an assistant nurse manager at Methodist Children's Hospital in San Antonio. (9603 Silver Moon, San Antonio, TX 78254)

Ike and Alexis Gentry Peters announce the birth of a son, Elliott Edward, Nov. 4, 2013. Ike is a copywriter for Cranford Johnson Robinson Woods, and Alexis is a copywriter for Dilard's. (2908 Valley Park Drive, Little Rock, AR 72212)

2009

Jacob Hawk has published a book titled *Image of the Invisible God*. He preaches for Riverside Church of Christ in Kerrville, Texas. (416 Mack Hollimon Drive, Kerrville, TX 78028)

Nic Horton married Leah Beth Epperson Oct. 5, 2013. Nic is a reporter for TheArkansasProject.com, a division of the Advance Arkansas Institute in Little Rock, and Leah works as Arkansas Tech University Wesley Foundation women's director and age-to-age director. (1835 Ott Memorial Blvd., Apt. B1, Conway, AR 72032)

Tim Irizarry is a physician assistant with Arkansas Urology. He also is serving as governmental affairs chairperson for the Arkansas Academy of Physician Assistants. He was elected president of the Urological Association of Physician Assistants in July 2013, which represents all physician assistants in urology across the nation. (12820 Pleasant Forest Drive, Little Rock, AR 72212)

Chris ('11) and Jana Bankston Mitchell announce the birth of a son, Easton Joe, June 14, 2013. They have another son, Kage. Chris is an auditor for the State of Arkansas, and Jana is a homemaker. (417 Craig Drive, Searcy, AR 72143)

2010

Kyle Fonville graduated first in his 2013 class at Texas Wesleyan University School of Law and has joined Decker, Jones, McMackin, McClane, Hall & Bates, P.C. He also is involved with the Down Syndrome Partnership of North Texas.



2011

Robert Cook has been promoted to Associate II with Draffin & Tucker LLP in the firm's health care practice. He joined the firm in 2012 after graduating

from the University of Alabama with a master's degree in accounting. (726 Summer Drive N.E., Atlanta, GA 30328)

2012

Alyssa Farris is a social worker for Lifeline Children's Services in Hendersonville, Tenn. (4530 Belmont Park Terrace, Nashville, TN 37215)

Ben Johnson was elected to the Louisiana Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Board of Directors as the student/associate representative. He is a graduate student in the marriage and family therapy program at University of Louisiana at Monroe. (100 W. Westridge Drive, West Monroe, LA 71291)

2013

Joshua Little has joined KLBK in Lubbock, Texas, as the weekend anchor and reporter. (9327 Gillcross Way, San Antonio, TX 78250)

Send us your news

We love hearing from you. Please keep us updated with what's happening in your life: a wedding, birth, job change, promotion, award, retirement, etc. Send your news items to:

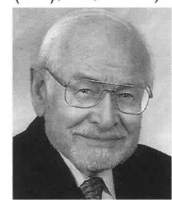
"Connections"
Harding University
Office of Alumni Relations
Box 10768
Searcy, AR 72149-0768
or alumninews@harding.edu

Please note that because of publishing deadlines, your information may be delayed an issue.

Passages

Iva Bernelle Anderson Greenway ('38), 94, died Oct. 7, 2011. She taught business courses at Crowley's Ridge Academy and Oak Grove High School in Paragould, Ark. She was a member of the Seventh and Mueller Church of Christ and the Retired Teachers Association. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Vance** ('39), with whom she traveled on behalf of Children's Home Inc. of Paragould. She is survived by three sons, **Vance** ('61), **Terry** ('75) and **Barry** ('81); two daughters, **Nyla Stewart** ('69) and **Lynn Lucas** ('70); seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Adair Pinckney Chapman Jr. ('43), 92, died July 12, 2013.



Following graduation, he took the job of superintendent of Knobel School District in Arkansas and,

at age 21, was the youngest superintendent in the state. He continued his studies at Arkansas State University, University of Kansas City and University of Georgia. In 1943 he entered full-time ministry serving in the mission areas of Paducah, Ky., and Athens, Ga., and as minister of the following churches of Christ: Kensington Park, Kansas City, Kan.; Highland Park, Dallas; Proctor Street, Port Arthur, Texas; and Garland Road (now Highland Oaks), Dallas. Additional ministry outreach efforts included radio and television programs. In 1980, he began to devote his full commitment to reaching lost, hurt and forgotten people who were not being served by established churches. He created a charitable organization known today as First Century Way of the Cross Ministry and was instrumental in the planting or strengthening of many rural churches across the South and Midwest. In 2005 when Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, at age 84 he traveled alone to Louisiana to assess the needs of individual churches of Christ to organize assistance. He created one of the first prison ministries including the largest tape ministry at that time, which touched lives across the U.S. and into Africa and the Fiji Islands. He was preceded in death by his son, Adair III. He is survived by his wife of 73 years, **Nancy Mullaney** ('44); a son, **Larry** ('82); a daughter, **Jan Chapman-Green** ('69); two brothers, **Forrest** ('50) and **Artlin** ('56); two granddaughters; and one great-granddaughter.

Bessie May Quarles Smelser ('45), 90, died Aug. 13, 2013. In December 1947 she married O'Neal Smelser of Tuscaloosa, Ala. In 1956, they settled in Florence, Ala. In addition to secretarial jobs for law firms, she was the secretary in the president's office at Heritage University for seven years. She also was an active partner



in family businesses which included Miss Henny Eggs, LiFerko Inc. and Echo Hills Mobile Park. She was an advocate and supporter of Christian education, especially Mars Hill Bible School and Harding University. She was a member of Cross Point Church of Christ, teaching Sunday school classes until just a few weeks before her death. For many years she taught students through the World Bible School curriculum. She contributed to a published book titled *Unto You Young Women, Keepers of Homes*. She was preceded in death by her husband, O'Neal. She is survived by four daughters, **Rebecca Brand** ('70), **Jodi Beck** ('75), **Cindy Eason** ('80) and **Betsy Nesbitt** ('87); two sons, **Danny** ('73) and **David** ('89); 13 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Robert Leon Gibson ('47), 87, died June 1, 2013. He is survived by his wife, **Ruth McDearman** ('46); a son, **David** ('74); two daughters, **Nancy Evans** ('66) and **Carol Bailey** ('84); six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

George Edward Baggett ('50), 85, died Nov. 24, 2013. He



received his master's in 1951 from University of Missouri-Kansas City and his Ph.D. from Uni-

versity of Oklahoma in 1974. He worked at Harding for 40 years as chorale director, band director and professor of music. He conducted many singing schools and vacation Bible schools. He served as secretary and president of the Arkansas Music Educators Association and was a member of the College Band Directors National Association and charter director of the Searcy Community Summer Band. He was a charter member of the Optimist Club and served in many roles including secretary, treasurer, lieutenant governor and president, with more than 40 years of perfect attendance at Optimist Club meetings. He was a founding member of West Side Church of Christ and served as an elder. He and his wife loved to travel. He was preceded in death by his wife of

63 years, **Jeannette Norris** ('50). He is survived by a son, **Robert** ('77); a daughter, **Rosemary Wilson** ('73); five grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Kathryn Yingling Meadows ('50), 84, died Oct. 5, 2013. She taught in the Paragould, Ark., school system for 30 years. She was a member of College Church of Christ. She was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond. She is survived by a daughter, Melinda; and a brother, **Lewis Yingling** ('50).

Judith (Judy) Mardelle Hogan Miller ('50), 86, died Oct. 20,

2013. She was married for 52 years to Jule Miller, multimedia pioneer and creator of the Visualized Bible Study Series known as "the filmstrips." Her gifts in drama, oratory and spiritual wisdom, along with her love for home, made her his perfect helpmeet. Together they traveled the U.S. telling the story of Jesus, entertaining with magic shows, which included spiritual applications, and training people how to lead souls to the savior. She served with her husband in churches in Searcy, and Corpus Christi and Houston, Texas. She wrote 18 inspiration-

al books and taught ladies' Bible classes until she was in her 80s. She was a longtime member of Southeast Church of Christ in Houston and a member of Watters Road Church of Christ, Pasadena, Texas. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Jule** ('49). She is survived by four sons, **Mark** ('72), **Robin** ('77), **Scott** ('86) and **Todd** ('88); six daughters, **Julia Wright** ('78), **Laura Grady** ('80), **Patty** ('82), Tammy McGee, Wendy Talkington and **Susan Powers** ('90); a brother, Patrick Hogan; 32 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

[ENHANCING THE MISSION]

The case against do-it-yourself wills

By TED HACKNEY, director of the Center for Charitable Estate Planning

Although a will can provide more help to your family and loved ones than almost any other document, the majority of adults do not have one. Psychological factors are at play — it can be unpleasant to consider what will happen at the end of your life, and it can be annoying to spend money on estate planning since you will not be alive to see the benefits.



Ted Hackney

Do-it-yourself books, software and online forms are an attempt to allow you to do all your own planning without any outside intrusion on your personal life or expensive attorney fees.

Plainly stated (and I recognize many will not like this conclusion), do-it-yourself wills are a bad idea. There are far too many potential pitfalls to consider in one article — from the wording of the document to the required formalities for how it must be signed and witnessed before it can be valid. A consumer-oriented book — *Estate Planning Smarts: A Practical, User-Friendly, Action-Oriented Guide* — is a great place to read "do-it-yourself will" horror stories.

Proponents of self-help products argue that writing your own will is better than having no will. But that is only partially right. One example of this is that these people usually don't mention and many people don't realize that your state's rules of intestacy apply if you foul up your will. A few years ago, a father who was estranged from one of his children wanted to disinherit him. He bought do-it-yourself will software and, following the prompts, listed his assets but omitted some important ones: small numbers of shares of various phone company stocks he had bought many years earlier. Those shares had

increased enormously in value through the years and were worth more than \$1.5 million, comprising most of his estate at his death.

Unfortunately, the will did not include a residuary clause indicating how to distribute what is left after estate expenses, creditors and taxes have been paid and gifts of specific items or sums of money have been satisfied. So, the stocks passed according to the law of intestacy, and the son the father wanted to disinherit walked away with almost \$400,000. To make matters worse, the son had a substance abuse problem and blew through the money in less than a year.

Many mistakes involve what's called execution — the way these documents are signed and witnessed. Requirements, which may seem nit-picky, are designed to avoid foul play and vary from state to state. For example, some state laws provide that if you sign a will as a witness, you can't inherit anything under it. Some do-it-yourselfers have been known to send their will around to different witnesses and have them sign the will outside the presence of the person having the will done. Unfortunately, this will usually make the will completely unenforceable.

Some assets do not typically pass through a will or living trust. These include savings bonds, certain bank accounts and certificates of deposit (which are often made automatically payable on death to the person you name), retirement accounts, life insurance, and annuities. In addition to preparing your will, a lawyer can coordinate all these moving parts.

Call me at 501-279-4210. Email me at thackney@harding.edu. We will discuss your estate with you and, if needed, put you in touch with a network of reasonably priced estate planning attorneys. ■

Donald Paul Garner ('51), 83, died Aug. 31, 2013. He earned a master's in speech and theatre in 1953 at Kent State University in Ohio. He taught at David Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., during which time he was drafted by the U.S. Army and served in the Korean War. He then enrolled at Wayne State University in Detroit. After completing course work there, he taught two years at University of Maryland with a program that educated American soldiers based in European installations. Following his return to Wayne State and completing his Ph.D., he moved to Charleston, Ill., and taught at Eastern Illinois University from 1963-94 where he served as chair of the department of speech for 11 years. His career included teaching, publishing, graphic layout and design, editing, directing theatre, lecturing, and consulting. He was an avid reader, a collector of sheet music, a published author, and photography enthusiast. His love for travel took him to all 50 states and 37 countries. He served as president of the Charleston Historical Society. He was on the board at Lincoln Log Cabin Historic Site, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and Charleston Community Theatre. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Suellyn Lindsey; two sons, Josh and Dirk; and three grandchildren.

Lilly Elizabeth Williams ('52), 83, died Oct. 12, 2013. She was a homemaker who also worked several years as a realtor in Searcy. She loved to quilt with the P.I.N.S. group that makes quilts to help raise money for Associated Women for Harding. She was a member of College Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, **Bill** ('50); two sons, **Steve** ('77) and **Skip** ('81); two daughters, **Lynn Bradshaw** ('81) and **Jane Scheenen**; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Fredrick Ralph Austin ('59), 80, died Oct. 13, 2013. He served in the Army during the Korean War. He worked 25 years at Memphis Publishing Company and spent more than 20 years preaching the gospel — many of those years with the church of Christ in Buckhorn, Miss. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, **Helen**; two children; six

Byron "Buddy" Allen Rowan, a faithful worker in the business office at the University, died Nov. 10, 2013, at the age of 76.

Rowan had a significant career in the military before becoming a part of Christian education. He served in the army during the Vietnam War as an auditor in Washington, D.C., and in Alaska. Later he was employed as an auditor for the Navy and for NASA.

He then began a different career moving to Parkersburg, W.Va., as the bursar for Ohio Valley College. From there he came to Harding in 1967 as an accountant, became comptroller in 1970, assistant vice president for finance in 1984, and vice president for finance and chief financial officer in 1998, a position he held until he retired. I enjoyed working with him and considered him a colleague and friend.

Rowan was always optimistic, and he was an encourager. He loved Christian education, he loved Harding University, and he loved the Harding community. Those of us who knew him will always remember his laugh. He always was cheerful. I will ever remember his response when I would ask him how he was doing and he would

grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Ida Lois Lawson (M.A.T. '59), 99, died Nov. 1, 2013. The only member of her family to ever attend college, she graduated from Cameron State Junior College in 1934 and earned a bachelor's from Southwestern State University at Weatherford, Okla., in 1940. She taught at Harding Academy for 31 years, mostly third grade. She received Harding's Distinguished Service Award in 1981 and the Outstanding Alumna award in 2004 from the College of Education. She taught first-grade Sunday school class for more than 30 years at College Church of Christ and worked in the His House ministry. She is



BUDDY ROWAN | 1937-2013

Optimistic encourager

By DAVID B. BURKS, chancellor



respond, "Mean as ever." This was truly ironic as he was never mean — he was always kind.

In addition to his love for Harding and Christian education, he loved the Lord's church. A long-time member of Downtown Church of Christ, he served 23 years as a shepherd. He was highly respected by all those who knew him.

He was a member of the Searcy Kiwanis Club

and served as president. He was president of the Arkansas Association of College and University Business Officers in 1985-86 and also belonged to the national organization.

Rowan was also devoted to his family and loved his children and grandchildren in every possible way.

I remember him as a man of absolute integrity and character. He made good decisions and al-

ways was dependable with a great attitude. We will miss him but know that he has gone to his great reward in heaven. ■

Rowan is survived by his wife of 49 years, Shirley Williams; a son, Andrew ('87); a daughter, Kimberly Atchley ('90); a sister, Jane Duncan; and six grandchildren.

survived by her husband of 73 years, **Maurice**; three sons, **Jim-mie** ('64), **Larry** ('68) and **David** ('71); four grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Jerry M. Figgins ('60), 75, died Aug. 14, 2013. While at Harding, he was on the first football team in 1959. He was a graduate of the Air Force Institute of Technology and the Army War College. In 1962 he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, to which he dedicated his life for the next 26 years. His favorite assignment was as squadron commander of the 61st Tactical Air Support at Little Rock Air Force Base in Arkansas. His many awards and decorations include the Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with one silver and four bronze oak leaf

clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. He enjoyed raising Beefmaster cattle in retirement. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, **Maribeth Ballard** ('66); a son, **Todd**; two daughters, **Lauribeth** and **Amy**; two brothers, **John** and **Bob**; and nine grandchildren.

Evelyn Marie Laird ('66), 69, died Sept. 19, 2013. She earned



her master's and doctorate degrees from Springfield College in Massachusetts. She then moved to Portland, Ore., and taught and coached at Columbia Christian College and Oregon State University. She also worked for the State of Oregon in the areas of retirement and financial planning.



She is survived by four brothers, J.L., Lester, **Bill** ('66) and **Dale** ('71); and six sisters, Frances Stephens, Ruby McDaniel, OmaLee McDaniel, Sue Smith, **Linda Jensen** ('70), and Glenda Evans.

Carlotta Brown Baird ('68), 66, died May 22, 2013. She earned a B.S. in nursing in 1968 and a M.S.N. in 1993, both from University of Arkansas. She married her husband, Jerry D. Cherry, in 1964, and they lived in Bartlesville, Okla., where she worked as a registered nurse. Jerry's job transferred them overseas and to Houston. In 1986 they moved to Springdale, Ark., where she practiced nursing and Jerry owned an accounting practice. In 2000, she married Dale S. Baird and they lived in Bartlesville. They spent the next 12 years traveling foreign and domestically. She worshipped with Adams Boulevard Church of Christ in Bartlesville where she served on the missions committee. She was active in the Downtown Kiwanis Club, having served as president and secretary. She is survived by her husband, Dale; two sons, Brian and Steven; four daughters, Betty Jane Eubanks, Terry Davis, Judy Hinds and Martha Hooker; a brother, David Brown; 14 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

James Kinser ('68), 73, died July 17, 2013. He preached for 43 years, 33 of those years at Bonita Drive, which later became Crosspointe Church of Christ in Middletown, Ohio. He served as chaplain for Hospice Care of Middletown and Atrium Medical Center. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He is survived by his wife, Patty Norris; two sons, **Andrew** ('91) and **Matthew** ('94); and two daughters, **Jill Slater** ('89) and **Lori Lakes** ('93).

Kenneth Owen Pulley ('80), 55, died Oct. 14, 2013. He loved



music and was known for his singing and musical talents. He played multiple instruments. He also enjoyed sports, cheering on the Cleveland Browns and the Cleveland Indians. He was a member of Downtown Church of Christ for 30 years. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, **Jil Woodruff** ('80); three sons, Joshua, **George**

('02), and Philip; his mother, Marie Pulley; a brother, Randy; a sister, Deborah Beardsley; and five grandchildren.

Zane Howard ('82), 57, died Aug. 11, 2013, from cancer. He founded Professional Computer Systems in Memphis, Tenn., in 1981 and also had business interests including home health agencies, restaurants and a specialty paint company. He served on the board for The Neighborhood School for several years. He was proud to say that he never had an employer and was a lifelong entrepreneur. He is survived by his wife, Kathy; a son, Crews; his mother, Roma Howard; a brother, **James** ('89); and a sister, **Tonya** ('74).

Kirsten May Eckerberg Plettner ('85), 52, died Nov. 15, 2013. She served as a Russian linguist in the U.S. Army from 1987-93. She then taught GED, ESL and citizenship courses through Southeastern Community College and online English composition courses through Peru State College. In 1992 she earned her master's from Boston University. She was a member of the church of Christ, DAR, DAV, and Beta Sigma Phi. She is survived by her husband, Elden; a daughter, Kira Fish; two stepdaughters, Jessica Rose and Jennifer Stortenbecker; her parents, **James** ('59) and **Mary Jane Eckerberg** ('58); a brother, Philip; and two grandchildren.

Jennifer Helms Fulk ('95), 40, died May 28, 2013, from breast cancer. Her passions were interior design, being home with her children, and being a major part of the lives of hundreds of teenagers during the 19 years she served in youth ministry. She was a member of the Margaret Street Church of Christ in Milton, Fla. She is survived by her husband, **Greg** ('95); two sons, Christian and Caden; a daughter, Caroline; her parents, Barbara and Billy Helms; a brother, Jeff; and a sister, Kimberly Turner.

Courtney Charis Book ('12), 24, died Oct. 18, 2013, from injuries sustained



when she was hit while riding her bicycle. She was a graduate student in Harding's College of Education studying in the Master of

[EVENTS]

FEBRUARY

13

ASI speaker
Lt. Col. Dave Grossman

14

Lyceum: Baltimore Consort

17

Winter Preview

27-March 1

Theatre: "Macbeth"

MARCH

8-16

Spring Break

18

ASI speaker Dr. Ben Carson

20

Lyceum: Navy Sea Chanters

27-29

Theatre: "Radium Girls"

APRIL

4

Arkansas Symphony Orchestra
Chamber Ensemble

17-19

Spring Sing

17-20

Bison Days IV

MAY

1-3

Theatre:
"An Evening of One Acts"

10

Spring graduation

12-23

Intersession

12-Aug. 1

Extended summer session

JUNE

9-July 3

Summer I session

For a complete list of events
and contact information, visit
www.harding.edu/calendar.



Arts in Teaching program. She worked at Zaxby's, was a member of Regina social club, and for the past three years worked as a student assistant in Harding's Lectureship office. She is survived by her parents, **Keith** ('81) and **Martha Holt** ('82) **Book**; and three sisters, **Amanda** ('07), **Heidi** ('11) and Rebecca.

Lauren Michelle Bump, 24, died Dec. 31, 2013. She was in her final



year in the physician assistant program at Harding and received her bachelor's at McMurry University in Abilene, Texas. She was active in mission work in Guatemala, various charities and volunteer work. She loved the outdoors, her friends, family and above all, God. She is survived by her parents, John and Lauri Bump; two brothers, Ryan and Stephen; and her grandparents, George and Louise Bromley, Lillian Bump and Gil Payne.

Carl Lee Allison, 80, died Dec. 3, 2013. He graduated from



University of Oklahoma in 1955, where he was a four-year starter in football and baseball. He was drafted by the Chicago Bears and also was offered a contract from the Boston Red Sox. He was a teacher and coach in Clinton, Okla., from 1955-59 and earned his master's in education in 1959 from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Allison reinstated the football program at Harding in 1959 and was team's head coach through the 1963 season. From 1964-66 he was backfield coach at University of Oklahoma. He also coached baseball at Harding from 1960-63 and 1967-69. He served as dean of men at Harding from 1966-69 and as assistant athletic director from 1967-68. In 1970, he helped establish Whites Ferry Road School of Preaching, serving as director for 22 years. He was preceded in death by a son, **Darrin** ('83). Survivors include his wife, Barbara Williams; a son, **Dirk** ('78); two daughters, **Carla Lee Jeter** ('76) and Lori Easterly; seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.



New beginnings

By HANNAH BEALL OWENS

At the end of 2012, The University of Scranton came out with a study showing that only eight percent of Americans are successful in fulfilling their New Year's resolution from the 45 percent who regularly make them. As the new year began, almost half of Americans

were making plans to fit into smaller clothes, clean out the catch-all closet in the laundry room, pinch pennies, and meet Mr. Right.

You won't find the 2013 resolutions of senior nursing major Kristin Galloway and Haylynn Beall ('13) on the study's top 10 list of most common goals, which included losing weight, getting more organized, spending less and falling in love.

"In 2012 I realized how focused I was on myself," Galloway said. "My prayer for 2013 was that I would focus less on myself and be more sensitive to those who were hurting."

After her first semester of nursing school, Galloway realized that her actions and thoughts needed to shift away from revolving around herself. She actively began seeking opportunities to put others before herself, such as taking on the responsibility of mentoring a younger nursing student. She was nervous to begin clinical work, but she made a conscious effort to focus her attention on those she would be charged with caring for.

"I always tried to show patients Christ through my care of them that day," she said. "Life is a ministry. It's not just going on a mission trip. It's not just my walking into the hospital. It's every day."

Beall, who graduated in December 2013 with a degree in communication sciences and disorders, did some deep evaluating before deciding on her 2013 goals.

"For a few days in 2012, I sat quietly in my room and really thought about what I wanted to change about myself in 2013," she said. "I made a list of things with a verse in the Bible to go along with it. The whole reasoning behind it was that I wanted to grow with God."

Beall pulled from Proverbs as motivation for the new year. Verse 3 in chapter 16 says, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." Having a positive self-image, living fearlessly, and keeping her focus on heaven were three of the many goals she set on her journey to build her relationship with God.

Beall and Galloway met while traveling abroad with the University's international program in Australia and Asia. Best friends ever since, they have used each other throughout 2013 as spiritual encouragement and inspiration.

"We pray together often," Beall said. "We also share moving or exciting things that we've read in our Bible. We cannot do everything on our own as much as many of us would like to. Accountability is crucial in this process."

"I found it's helpful to tell someone your resolutions to keep sort of an accountability partner," Galloway said. "It allows for mutual motivation and encouragement as you are trying to reach your goals."

Though it's common to break resolutions soon after they're made, both Beall and Galloway have learned to not let setbacks ruin the entire year.

"If you hit lulls throughout the year or road blocks, remember why you set these resolutions in the first place and keep a positive attitude," Galloway said.

"Your thoughts have a profound effect on your outcomes."

"We are all human, and we make mistakes," Beall said. "If you go into it knowing you might mess up, it could help you in the long run. If it happens, resolve to start again, and keep trucking along." **H**



ILLUSTRATION BY HANNAH ALEXANDER CARPENTER

Pirates!?!

Part of the cast and crew of about 125 perform in the 2013 Homecoming musical Oct. 25-26. A collaboration between the English, music and theatre departments produced the recreation of "Pirates of Penzance" with a Harding flavor.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY





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PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

Sweet celebration

Playing in a cold rain, the Bisons combined 504 yards of total offense with its best defensive effort of the season to win the inaugural Live United Texarkana Bowl 44-3 against Texas A&M-Commerce Dec. 13, 2013, at Razorback Stadium in Texarkana, Ark. To read more about the team's bowl win and its 9-2 season, see Page 7.

